PAPERS

REGARDING THE

TEA INDUSTRY IN BENGAL.

Calcutta:
PRINTED AT THE BENGAL SECRETARIAT PRESS.
1873.

No. 3228.

FROM THE OFFG. SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF BENGAL
IN THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

TO THE SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA
IN THE DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, REVENUE
AND COMMERCE.

Calcutta, *dated* 29*th* *October* / *issued* *October* } 1873.

AGRICULTURAL DEPT.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 74, dated the 17th June, 1873, with its enclosure, calling for a report and statistics in regard to the present position and apparent prospects of tea culture in Bengal, and in reply I am to submit the accompanying pamphlet on the tea industry compiled in this office from the reports received from local officers and managers of tea gardens.

2. The papers and returns give a mass of useful and practical information. It is extraordinarily difficult to get returns quite accurate, but they are in the main sufficiently so for practical purposes; and excepting for the important tea district of Luckimpore, where information has not been rendered for a large number of gardens, they are tolerably complete.

3. The note prepared by Mr. J. W. Edgar, than whom no officer in Bengal had a greater practical experience of the subject, or made a better use of his opportunities, gives an admirable *resumé* of the history of tea-planting and its present position and prospects as required by the 4th paragraph of your letter under reply, and the Lieutenant-Governor can in no way improve upon that statement. His Honor believes Mr. Edgar's description of the past and present state of the question to be most true and accurate.

4. Mr. Campbell, the Assistant Commissioner of Burpettah, has also contributed a valuable and interesting note* on the history of tea-planting in Assam, to which special attention is invited.

Vide page 121 of pamphlet.

5. Many of the letters of public officers and private planters are also good and interesting.

6. There remains the question of obstacles in the way of the extension of the industry, and the means by which they may be remedied. Many points of alleged difficulty and suggested remedy are touched on by Mr. Edgar, and in the various communications comprised in the collection. The Lieutenant-Governor does not know that he can add much to the communications on these points, which have already been made to the Government of India.

7. The abuses in connection with the grant of land have now been remedied; the last abuses of the kind, which were found to exist in the Darjeeling district, have lately been put a stop to. On the other hand, the old waste land rules having been abrogated, and new ones not being yet definitely in force, there is some ground for alleging that there is in this respect some obstacle to the extension of tea enterprise.

8. The Lieutenant-Governor observes that in Assam several of the planters complain bitterly of what they call the Lieutenant-Governor's reactionary policy in stopping the liberal practices of former days, and as usual under such circumstances, are sure that His Excellency the Viceroy will do everything that is good and beneficial. The Government of India is well aware that the order for stopping sales came from the Government of India and not from this Government; so no more need be said on that point.

9. No doubt the stoppage of sales till new rules can be arranged must lead to some disappointment; and it is so difficult to turn all parties, official and non-official, from an abused and inaccurate system to one that is regular and accurate, that some friction necessarily attends the transition. Even in cases in which, on account of previous application, sales were, on the recommendation of this Government, in some cases permitted, the boundaries put forward were so utterly vague and illusory (*e.g.*, east-jungle, south-jungle, west-jungle), and otherwise accuracy was so much neglected, that it was necessary to postpone some proposed sales.

10. At one time the Lieutenant-Governor did think that (though inevitable as the result of transition from former

abuses) some hardship and injury had been caused by such difficulties, and that there was ground for the complaint of enterprising men with money in their hands and coolies in their boats who had come to set up gardens, and found themselves stopped for want of land. The Lieutenant-Governor believes, however, that in every instance the complainants were eventually found to be veteran speculators, who already hold much land; he has not yet come across a new man stopped in this way. And he is inclined to accept Mr. Edgar's view, that in truth, seeing how much more land is already held than is yet utilised, the temporary stoppage of land grants will not on the whole have an injurious effect, but may operate beneficially to induce consolidation and completion of existing enterprises before new ones are undertaken.

11. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks it, however, very desirable that the terms on which land is to be available in future should be well settled without further delay.

12. As respects labor, the Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the abuses of which Mr. Edgar gives the history have now almost ceased to exist.

13. In Darjeeling and the other districts, where labor is free, there never were serious abuses. In Darjeeling the complaint now is that the coolies are too independent. In Cachar and Sylhet things have assumed so satisfactory a state that, as the Government of India is aware, His Honor has come to think that it may be best to render immigration as free, cheap, and easy as possible, and that we may dispense with special laws. In Assam late observations have shown that in most gardens the state of things is satisfactory. Still there is great variety in the condition of things in that province; the mortality is still in some tracts considerable, and some of the gardens are far removed from magisterial control. Two or three of the letters of Assam planters included in the collections still show a spirit in regard to the coolies which the Lieutenant-Governor does not altogether like. Some special supervision is still necessary in Assam.

14. It must also be admitted that the question of transport of labor to Assam is not yet solved. Boats cannot convey laborers there quickly and easily as they can to Sylhet and Cachar. Assam also cannot be easily reached by land as can Darjeeling. Coolies, whether those of recruiters or those of garden-sirdars, are crowded in steamers and flats which make very slow and irregular voyages. Under these conditions, they still seem singularly subject to cholera, and much mortality not unfrequently occurs.

15. The recruiting system, under which coolies are bought from a contractor for large sums which never reach the coolie, can never be a very satisfactory kind of immigration on a large scale. Both on this account, and because of the difficulties of the voyage, the Lieutenant-Governor is more and more convinced that the great thing to benefit the tea districts and the country generally is to improve the means of communication between the crowded districts of the west and the labor-seeking districts of the north-east. These views were set forth in the note on the subject submitted to the Government of India in the Public works Department, with this Government letter No. 3137, dated the 1st September, 1873, copy of which is enclosed.

16. It so happens that the districts now threatened with failure of the crops are the very districts through which such west to east roads as His Honor has suggested would run, and Sir George Campbell would strongly urge that in the event of an unhappy necessity for relief works, these works should be undertaken at once. Officers shall be made available, and the best line selected without delay.

17. The Lieutenant-Governor has already done much to promote local roads in the tea districts, and given money liberally. But to link Assam with Bengal, an efficient and speedy steam-packet service is a very immediate and crying necessity, and His Honor very greatly trusts that weight will be given to the representations on that subject submitted to the Government of India in the Financial Department, with this office letter No. 3298, dated the 12th September, 1873, a spare copy of which is herewith forwarded.

18. For more permanent communication, if the Government of India would entertain the idea of a railway through the rich, populous, and productive districts of Dacca and Mymensing, and into the mineral tracts of the Garo Hills (all which would rapidly pay well), and would then continue such a line into Assam, in the belief that the development of a country would pay in the end, the Lientenant-Governor is inclined to think that the policy would be a sound one.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

A. MACKENZIE,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

A. St. L. B.

CONTENTS.

NOTE

On the Reports on Tea Cultivation submitted in compliance with letter No. 74, from the Secretary to the Government of India, Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce Department.

WHEN I undertook to write a note on these reports, I hoped to be able to give a general sketch of the history of the tea industry in Bengal, showing its origin and progress, the difficulty and checks it has met with, together with their apparent causes; its present extent and prospects, and the dangers to which, as it seems to me, it is exposed. Unfortunately, however, I have been unable to get the works required for reference in drawing up such a review, and I am unwilling to trust to memory in dealing with the many controverted points connected with tea. I shall not therefore attempt to do more than give a few rough notes on the reports submitted by the various district officers, and to compare the figures shown in the returns from the different tea-growing parts of Bengal.

It is to be feared that these returns are at best not more than pretty accurate approximations. Those from Luckimpore cannot even be considered approximations, for no information could be obtained from the owners of forty-two concerns. The Deputy Commissioner has given the gross area of these estates from his office records, but of course he was unable to give the area actually under tea cultivation. He has also shown the outturn of six of the concerns for 1871. Many of these forty-two concerns are of no practical importance, having a merely nominal existence, but some are of considerable size, and their failure to supply statistics makes the Luckimpore returns of very little value for purposes of comparison.

Although the Luckimpore planters have alone as a body shewn unwillingness to supply the information, and the returns from the eleven remaining tea growing districts contain much that is very valuable, there are some points in which they fall short of perfect accuracy. In the first place many seem to have misunderstood column 7 of the form of return, and not returned land included in the area of their grants, because they have now no intention of cultivating it with tea. Consequently the total area shewn in column 8 is frequently less than the area actually held in connection with tea. This is, however, corrected in the statements of area given in the reports which are compiled from the records of the district offices, and in the ensuing remarks I shall always adopt the latter figures, which are absolutely correct in most districts. A much more serious cause of error is the frequent ignorance of planters of the exact area actually under plant. In Cachar this area was very often over-estimated; in Darjeeling there is a tendency to take it as less than it

really is. Then there is great uncertainty in classification of plant as mature and immature, and in consequence the figures in the last column, showing the average yield per acre of mature plant, are frequently misleading. The Government of Bengal, foreseeing this danger, suggested, in the circular which accompanied the returns, that all tea-bearing plant, whatever its age, should be shewn as mature; but this was not done in every case, and in some instances it is believed that plants five or six years old have been classed as immature, and their yield shewn against the so-called mature average of the whole garden—thus giving a most untrue and misleading average yield per acre.

Besides these general causes of error, I have detected several mistakes in the figures of individual gardens, which seem to be merely clerical errors. Two of these are very important, and I have not hesitated to correct them. The area of mature plant in Claverhouse in Cachar is shown as 3.562 acres. I know this to be wrong. The figure should be 3,56·2 acres, and this agrees with the average yield per acre as shewn in column 35. Again, the outturn of the Pattaria group in Sylhet is put down at 100lb; but there are 386 acres of mature plant in the group, and the average yield per acre of the mature plant is stated to be 230lb. It is probable that the 100lb represent the outturn of 36 acres of immature plant, and that the real outturn of the whole garden was 88,880lb. As this tallies with what I know of the gardens, I have corrected the statement accordingly. I do not feel equally confident about the remaining errors, which I think I have detected, and they are of comparatively small importance. I have not therefore attempted to correct them. It may be well, however, to call attention to one or two of them. In the general statement of lands intended for tea planting in Assam given in page 26 of the pamphlet, the total acreage in Durrung is shown as 48,942, while the sum of the figures shown in the preceding columns of the same statement is 55,442 acres. It is stated in a note that 3,652 acres held under the old Assam rules have been excluded, as well as a few out gardens held by residents of Gowhatty. The Assam rule lands should not have been excluded unless they had been redeemed and shown in column 4, and out gardens of Kamroop concerns should have been included unless shown in the acreage of that district, which is not apparent on the statement. Khaspore in Cachar is shewn to have 1,361 acres of immature plant and 6,003 of land not yet planted, while the total is shown to be 737 acres. I think the correct figures should be 136 acres 1 rood and 600 acres 3 roods. This agrees with the totals shewn for those columns. I have not therefore altered this total 3,124-3 acres and 66,265-1 acres. These figures are, I think, correct. Besides the above there are several entries and several omissions in these returns, which seem to me suspicious, but which I cannot explain even conjecturally. It is likely that some of the returns given in by individual planters were incorrect or incomplete, and not sufficiently tested before compilation. Other mistakes may have arisen in copying and compiling the abstract, while again there seem to be some errors of the press. In spite of this the information from all the districts except Luckimpore is most interesting and valuable, and I think an effort should be made to get it more correctly if possible. I would suggest that the

returns of each district should be printed off on large sheets and sent to the officer who had submitted each, with a request that he would test it with the information as received, correct all errors of the copyist or the press, and reconcile any discrepancies he might find in it. Many errors that had escaped notice in the manuscript would be seen at once in the printed statements.

General statistics for the province.

Tea is cultivated to a greater or less extent in five divisions in Bengal, viz. Assam, Dacca, Cooch Behar, Chittagong, and Chota Nagpore.

The area of waste land at present held by persons connected with the industry as shown by the records of the different district offices is 804,582 acres. To this we should probably have to add something for Durrung, as pointed out above; and when the revision of old Assam rule holdings in Cachar is completed, a considerable deduction will have to be made in the holdings of that district. I am not satisfied that we have the full area for Chittagong, as only those grants in which cultivation has been commenced seem to have been included.

There are undoubtedly lands obtained from natives for the purpose of growing tea which have not been shown in the returns, and some small amount has been obtained since they were compiled.

It is probable that all these additions would balance the deduction to be made for Cachar, but we may certainly put down the area of land which will after the revision in that district be held for purposes connected with the tea industry throughout the province at three-quarters of a million of acres. This includes all the land held in Luckimpore, the area of which was obtained from the district records. Out of this area the returns show that 70,341 acres is actually cultivated with tea. To this something would have to be added for the Luckimpore gardens, for which returns were not furnished. But it is not likely that this addition would bring the whole area to much more than 75,000 acres, that is ten per cent. of the total average held for tea purposes

Out of this area of 70,341 acres, 56,972 have been returned as mature and 13,369 as immature. As remarked above, this classification is too vague and uncertain to be of much practical use; but one deduction may be confidently drawn from it. It is almost certain that all the plants classed as immature are under seven years old: in other words, that they have been planted since 1866. So that we may assume that at least one-fifth of the present tea cultivation has been commenced since the period of depression of the industry. I think there can be no more satisfactory proof of its complete recovery than this. At the same time the tendency to extend cultivation disclosed in these figures is not in my opinion a subject for unmixed satisfaction, as I shall try to shew lower down.

The outturn of this acreage is shown to have been 14,670,171lb, besides which the Deputy Commissioner of Luckimpore conjectures that the outturn of six of the gardens from which returns were not received might be about 196,129lb; but I think it better not to take these gardens into consideration. Possibly the outturn of the forty-two might, if added to the figures which we have received, bring the total produce of the province up to over 15,000,000lb. But conjectures of this kind must be of little value. The average yield per acre calculated

on all the cultivated land, whether the plant be mature or immature, would be about 208lb. But of course this is scarcely a fair way of taking the average, and it would be manifestly equally incorrect to credit the mature plant with the yield of plant returned as immature. Possibly we may get an approximately accurate result by assuming the average yield of the land returned as immature at 80lb per acre, which I think a very fair assumption. This would give 1,069,520lb as the yield of the immature plant land, 13,500,651lb as the yield of the mature plant, being 237lb per acre for the latter.

Divisional statistics.

At the head of the divisions comes Assam, in which tea is grown in five districts—Seebsaugor, Durrung, Luckimpore, Nowgong, and Kamroop. The total area taken up for tea planting is stated to be 364,990 acres, and the amount cultivated (exclusive of the unreturned gardens of Luckimpore) to be 26,853 acres, or little more than 7 per cent. This percentage would no doubt be somewhat increased if we had full statistics for Luckimpore, but I doubt whether even this addition would make the proportion of actual cultivation more than 8 per cent. of the whole area held in connection with the tea industry in Assam. The area under mature plant is returned as 21,890 acres, that under immature plant as 4,963. The produce of both classes during the year 1872 was 6,150,764lb, of which 1,500,000lb were produced by the Assam Company.

Next to Assam comes Dacca, with two tea-growing districts—Sylhet and Cachar. The amount of land taken up for tea is 281,174 acres, which will be reduced to about 200,000 acres when the revision, now in progress, of old Assam leases held in Cachar has been completed. The cultivated area amounts to 26,751 acres, more than 9 per cent of the present holdings and about 13 per cent. of the probable revised acreage. The area of mature plant is put down at 23,031 acres, and that of immature plant at 3,720 acres. The outturn of the division in 1872 was 5,296,169lb. I may note that I include in this 88,780 for Pataria in Sylhet not distinctly shown in the returns.

Next to Dacca in importance as a tea-growing division is Cooch Behar, with two tea districts—Darjeeling and Gowalpara. The total area taken up for tea purposes is 133,024 acres. The amount returned as cultivated is 14,639 acres, or about 11 per cent. of the entire area held for tea. Out of this 10,181½ acres has been returned as mature, and 4,457½ as immature. The outturn of the division for 1872 was 2,955,926lb.

In the Chittagong division there is only one tea-growing district—Chittagong itself. The area taken up for planting is shown as 23,890 acres, but I suspect that this is under the mark. The amount of cultivation is said to be 1,203 acres, of which 1,034 is returned as mature, and 169 as immature. The outturn for 1872 is given as 204,112lb.

The tea cultivation of Chota Nagpore is very unimportant, though there are gardens in two districts—Hazareebaugh and Lohardugga. The entire area taken up is returned as 1,504 acres, and the total cultivation 894 acres, of which 835 is shown as mature and 59 as immature. The outturn for 1872 was only 53,200lb.

I now proceed to compare the figures for the different districts, taking them in the order of their importance as tea-producers. At the head of all is Cachar, with an outturn of 4,831,883℔ for 1872. The cultivated area is returned as 23,089 acres, but I am inclined to think that it is in reality not so great. The area of the mature plant is given as 19,965 acres, and that of immature plant as 3,124 acres. The average outturn per acre is less than that of Seebsaugor and Durrung, being 211lb as against 246lb, the produce per acre in those districts. On the other hand the proportion of the finer tea to the whole outturn was about 52 per cent. in Cachar, 50 per cent. in Durrung, and 34·13 per cent. in Seebsaugor. It should be remarked, however, that the classification of the tea is not to be relied on, for there is practically much uncertainty as to the meaning attached to the different terms. Tea that one planter would class as Pekoe Souchong would be sorted as Souchong by another, and might be classed as Pekoe by some one else.

District statistics.

To return to the average yield per acre in Cachar. If the plan suggested above of allowing 80℔ per acre as the yield of the immature plant be adopted, the outturn of the mature cultivation will be 4,633,263℔, or 232lb per acre.

Next to Cachar comes Seebsaugor with an outturn of 3,199,500lb. The cultivated acreage is shown as 12,980 acres, of which 11,290 is mature and 1,690 immature. The average yield per acre on the entire cultivation is 246℔. Allowing 80℔ per acre as the outturn of the immature plant, the produce of the mature area will be 3,064,300lb, or 271lb per acre. As stated above, the proportion of Pekoe and Pekoe Souchong to the entire outturn was 34 per cent.

Darjeeling comes third on the list of districts with an outturn of 2,953,926℔. The cultivated area is returned as 14,503 acres, of which 10,155½ are shown as mature, and 4,347½ as immature. I may say, however, that I believe that in most of the other districts a considerable portion of this latter would have been included in the mature area. The average yield for entire acreage is 203·5lb per acre, but if we take from the entire outturn the produce of the immature plant calculated at 80lb to the acre, we get an average yield of 256lb to the acre for the mature plant. The proportion of the finer tea to the whole outturn is 38 per cent.

Durrung comes next in importance to Darjeeling according to the returns, though probably if we had complete statistics Luckimpore would rank fourth among the tea districts. The outturn of Durrung is returned as 1,499,462lb The cultivation is stated to amount to 6,095 acres, of which 4,869 is mature and 1,226 immature. The average outturn on the whole cultivation is 246℔ per acre; but if the produce of the immature plant calculated as in other districts be left out of the calculation, we get an average yield of 287℔ per acre on the mature area. The proportion of finer tea is a fraction over 50 per cent.

The outturn of the portion of Luckimpore which has furnished statistics was 802,525℔. The cultivation is returned as 3,943 acres, of which 2,955 are shown as mature, and 988 as immature. The average yield on the total is 203℔ per acre; but leaving out the immature yield,

calculated as before, we get an average of 244lb per acre for the mature plant. The proportion of finer tea is 59 per cent.

Sylhet comes sixth on the list of districts, with an outturn of 412,986lb and a cultivated area of 3,662 acres, of which 3,066 are shown as mature and 596 as immature. The average outturn on the total area of cultivation was a fraction over 112lb per acre. Even if we suppose that the entire outturn was yielded by mature plant and leave out the immature acreage altogether, we should only get a yield of 134lb per acre. The figures are not sufficiently complete to enable me to make any estimate of the proportion of the finer tea.

Nowgong comes next, having an outturn of 370,901lb. Its cultivated area is 2,154 acres, of which 1,278½ is returned as mature and 875½ as immature. The average yield on the whole is 172·25lb per acre; while if we leave out the immature yield, calculated at 80lb per acre, we get an average of 2·35lb per acre of mature plant. The proportion of the higher classes of tea to the whole outturn is returned very high, rather more than 78 per cent.

The outturn of Kamroop was 278.375lb. The area of cultivation was returned at 1,681 acres, of which 1,498 are mature and 183 immature. The average yield of the whole was 165lb per acre.

The outturn of Chittagong was 204,112lb; the cultivated area 1,203 acres, that of mature plant 1,034, and that of immature 169 acres. The average yield per acre was 169lb.

I do not think it necessary to analyze the figures returned for the remaining three districts, which are of no importance from a tea-growing point of view.

The above results, obtained from an analysis of the returns, are so suggestive and important, that I feel sure that every one having an interest in the tea industry in Bengal would desire that these returns should be made as complete and correct as possible.

The reports by which they are accompanied are equally valuable, not merely for the information given in them, but because the views expressed by many of the planters, in Assam especially, clearly indicate the dangers that threaten the industry and afford abundant warning, when rightly understood, against a repetition of the policy which was in a great measure the cause of so many evils and of so much suffering during the years 1863—68.

Sketch of the history of tea planting.

Colonel Hopkinson has supplied a very interesting sketch of the history of tea in Assam, written by Mr. Campbell, Assistant Commissioner of Burpetta. The remaining Commissioners have given no historical notices of the industry in their divisions, confining their remarks tothe particular points specified in Government letter of the 16th August 1872. I had hoped to supply the deficiency, but,as mentioned above, I have not materials, nor, I may add,sufficient time, to do it satisfactorily, and can only in these notes give some of the leading dates in the history of Bengal tea planting and add a few remarks on the points raised in the reports under review. There have been lively disputes as to the first discoverer of tea in Assam, and the date of its discovery. It is probable that a Mr. C. A. Bruce, who commanded a division of gun-boats in Upper Assam during

the first Burmese war, brought down from Upper Assam some plants and seed of the indigenous plant in 1826, and he actually received a medal from the English Society of Arts. But his claims to have been the first discoverer of tea was disputed by a Captain Charlton, who asserted that the existence of tea in Assam had been first established by himself in 1832. In 1834 a committee was appointed to inquire into and report on the possibility of introducing the cultivation of tea into India. In 1835 the first attempt was made by Government to establish an experimental plantation in Luckimpore, but it failed, and the plants were afterwards removed to Joypore, in the Seebsaugor district, and a garden established, which was sold to the Assam Company in 1840. This Company, which was formed about 1839, was the first, and is still very much the greatest, concern for the cultivation of tea in Bengal. It was not, however, very prosperous during its early years, and in 1846-47 its shares are said by Mr. Campbell to have been almost unsaleable. Its prospects began to improve about 1852, and in 1859 it was reported officially to have a cultivated area of about 3,967 acres with an estimated outturn of over 760,000lb of tea. Meantime tea cultivation had been commenced in many other districts. In 1850 a garden was started by Colonel Hannay near Debrooghur, and in 1853, when Mr. Mills of the Sudder Court visited Assam, he found three private gardens in Seebsaugor and six in Luckimpore. In 1854 the first gardens were started in Durrung and Kamroop. In 1855 indigenous tea was found in Cachar, and the first garden in the district was commenced in the cold season of that year. In the following year (1856) tea was discovered in Sylhet, but I do not think that any attempt at cultivating it was made for some time after. Attempts had been made to cultivate tea at Darjeeling previous to 1853, when the district was reported on by Mr. Welby Jackson; but I think that the date of the commencement of the industry may be taken as 1856-57. The earliest notice of tea in Chota Nagpore which I can find is in 1862, and about the same time the cultivation was seriously commenced in Chittagong, though experiments had been made in that district as early as 1840.

It may be said generally, however, that the foundations of the present tea industry were laid between 1856 and 1859. In the latter year the labour difficulty began to be seriously felt in Assam and Cachar; but although Colonel Jenkins, Commissioner of Assam, recorded a serious warning, which I shall quote lower down, no one else seemed able to foresee the formidable dangers into which the too rapid progress of the industry would bring it. Later still, in 1862-63, officials as well as planters seem to have indulged in visions of fabulous prosperity, which only deepened the gloom of the miserable time that was so soon to come on them. The Land Revenue Administration Report for that year contains extracts from reports from Assam, Cachar, Sylhet, and Darjeeling, written in the most hopeful spirit; indeed, the two former are written in an exalted tone, that contrasts curiously with the usual sobriety of official reports. But even at the time of publication of these reports suspicions had begun to arise about the soundness of this condition of affairs which was apparently so brilliant. An Act passed for the regulation of the transport of native laborers emigrating to Assam and Cachar, passed

in 1863, was expected to remedy many hideous evils which were discovered to exist in the importation of laborers required to supplement the scanty local supply. But it soon came to light that the condition of these laborers on many gardens in both districts was most deplorable, while the mortality among them was appalling. The evil first fruits of the reckless way in which waste lands had been dealt with, in the belief that Government was fostering tea cultivation thereby, were being gathered in the shape of increasing hostility to Government and its officials, caused by difficulties about surveys, boundaries, title deeds, and the like, which all had arisen out of the mistaken policy of giving vast tracts of land to any one choosing to ask for them, without inquiry and without precaution of any kind. But I hope to deal more at length with these two questions of land and labour lower down. This seems to me the best place to touch on a third cause of the evil fortunes of tea planting, the mischiefs of which began to make themselves evident about the the year 1863. When I first went to Cachar at the end of that year, there used to be a saying in the mouths of planters that it was very doubtful whether it would ever pay to make tea, but that there was no doubt that it paid to make gardens. Another saying to the same effect was that gardens were made to sell, not to pay. Scarcely any one interested looked forward to obtaining his return from the produce of his tea cultivation; every one looked forward to becoming suddenly and immensely rich by getting a piece of land, planting it out with tea, and then selling it for a vastly greater sum than he had expended on it. At first the officials connected with tea did not see the danger of this state of things, for they exaggerated enormously the future profits of tea, and in the early days of the tea mania, though the price paid for gardens was frequently many times their possible value, still a real tea garden was got for the money. So we find the Superintendent of Cachar, in his report for 1862-63, complacently relating that some gardens had been sold at an advance of 700 or 800 per cent. on the gross expenditure of the owners and cultivators, while the Commissioner of Assam talks of people who certainly could not have been more than four or five years in tea "gaining their well-merited reward in ample fortunes." But, as might have been expected, people were not long content with these legitimate gains, great as they were, and in their haste to get rich, many speculators took advantage of the ignorance and credulity of the bulk of would-be investers to palm off on them what I may call shoddy gardens made in a hurry to meet the requirements of a London or Calcutta promoter; while in some instances gardens that had no existence at the time of sale were sold for immense sums to Companies formed for the purpose of purchasing, and a portion of the first instalments of the purchase-money spent in an attempt to create an article partially fulfilling the conditions of sale.

Mr. Campbell has given an account of this dishonest and reckless era in tea planting, as far as Assam is concerned. I can state from my own experience that matters were even worse in Cachar than he describes them to have been in Assam, and I have reason to believe that Darjeeling did not escape the general taint. But there are other than official witnesses to the evil state of things to which I refer. Mr. E. Money,

in his prize essay on tea, which received the Grant gold medal of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India in 1872, thus writes:—

"Often in those days was a small garden made of 30 or 40 acres and sold to a Company as 150 or 200 acres. I am not joking. It was done over and over again. The price paid, moreover, was quite out of proportion to even the supposed area. Two or three lakhs of rupees (£20,000 or £30,000) have often been paid for such gardens when not more than two years old, and forty per cent. of the existing areas vacancies. The original cultivators 'retired,' and the Company carried on." I think it is well to call attention to these misdeeds of the past now that one can see signs of a state of things similar to that which made them possible ten years ago.

In 1865 an Act was passed for the regulation of the relation of employers and imported laborers after the arrival of the latter in the districts of Assam, Sylhet, and Cachar. I shall discuss its effects lower down. Here I shall only say that though at first at least it did little to improve the condition of the laborers, I am convinced that it had not the slightest connection with the temporary collapse of the tea industry which took place in the following year. The cause of the crush of 1866 was the utterly unsound foundation on which the fabric of tea industry had been based, and not directly the action of Government, as at the time it was the fashion of even usually well-informed persons to assert. At the same time we should never lose sight of the fact that the industry might never have got into the ruinous state of inflation that it was in previous to 1866, had it not been for the unwise attempts of Government to foster it at the outset by sacrificing the most necessary safeguards in dealing with land. The depression of the industry consequent on the collapse of so many concerns in 1866 was of course intensified by the ignorance of the general body of proprietors of tea shares, who, as was remarked by me in a paper written in 1867, showed as much folly in their hurry to get out of tea as they had a few years before in their eagerness to undertake the speculation.

This depreciation of tea property continued during the years 1866, 1867, and 1868, but about 1869 things began to look brighter. It was seen that people who had worked steadily for years with a view to make gardens that would yield a profit had been rewarded, while much of the property of the collapsed companies had turned out well under careful management. In fact it was again found out that tea would pay, and ever since it has been steadily progressing in popular estimation, and, as a general rule, in profit to those engaged in it.

There cannot be the slightest doubt that the industry is in an infinitely better and safer position now than it was ten years ago. The existing gardens are, as a general rule, well filled with plant, highly cultivated, and carefully managed. The amount of tea produced per acre, although falling far short of the sanguine expectations of the first days of tea planting, is satisfactory in all the more important districts, while the prices obtained this season show that the average quality must be very good. There is every reason to hope that the labour difficulty is disappearing in Cachar, and in spite of the complaints from Assam, there are evident signs of improvement in that province. In

Darjeeling there is at present some difficulty, but the labour question is even now less troublesome in this district than it has been at all times in Assam and Cachar. But while there seems every reason to hope that the industry is now entering on a period of prosperity and stability such as it has not hitherto experienced, it would be most unwise to shut our eyes to some unpleasant signs which seem, when read by the light of past experience, to indicate a recurrence to that spirit of speculation and want of foresight which so very nearly ruined tea planting in former years.

I shall now take up the different points on which information was asked by the Government of Bengal, and in doing so shall notice any difficulties or obstacles pointed out in the local reports under the head to which they may seem to belong.

Land tenures.

There are at least twenty different tenures mentioned in the papers under which land cultivated with tea is held, but there are only three of much practical importance: first, the old Assam rules of 1854, under which more than 300,000* acres are at present held; second, a tenure in fee-simple, whether obtained by purchase or by redemption under the rule of the 30th August 1862, the area of the lands so held being more than 320,000 acres; and third, cultivation leases given under the orders of the Government of Bengal originally issued on the 22nd July 1864. I estimate that about 100,000 acres are held on this tenure, principally in the Darjeeling district.

Old Assam or clearance rules.

The rules of 1854 seem to have been the result of the official visit to Assam made in 1853 by Mr. Mills of the Sudder Court. It was provided in these rules that no grant of less area than 500 acres should be made under them; that the applicants should deposit sufficient sums of money to provide for the proper survey of the boundaries by a compass ameen; that one fourth of the area of each grant should be rent-free for ever, the remaining three-fourths to be rent-free for fifteen years, after which it was to be assessed at 3 annas an acre for ten years, and at 6 annas an acre for seventy-four years, after which it was liable to reassessment. The rules also provided that one-eighth of the grant should be cleared and rendered fit for cultivation in five years from date of lease, one-fourth in ten years, one-half in twenty years, and three-fourths in thirty years, failing which it was to be resumed.

These rules were extended to Cachar and Sylhet in 1856. For the first few years after their introduction they do not seem to have been very much abused. The local officers apparently thought it their duty to use much discretion in dealing with waste lands, and to supply the safeguards against land-jobbing and injustice to the native inhabitants of the tea districts, which were lamentably absent from the rules. I believe that they attempted at the outset to get the boundaries of each grant carefully defined, and to obtain some proof that the applicant had sufficient means to cultivate the lands applied for. But these precau-

* Since these notes were sent to the press, I have received the Board's memorandum on the Revenue Administration of Bengal, which contains statements of the areas held on these tenures in the tea districts considerably exceeding the above figures. The amount held in fee-simple is shewn as 402,325 acres, and that held under the Assam rules (excluding Sunderbund grants) at 388,300 acres.

tions were soon relaxed owing to the pressure brought to bear by speculators desirous to get land as quickly as possible, and the anxiety of Government not to appear to cause any obstacle to the progress of the industry. In 1858 or 1859 the practice of requiring applicants to show that they had means to cultivate the land was forbidden, in Cachar at least; and the result was such a rush for grants that in 1862-63 it was reported that 558,078 acres had been applied for in that district alone, and that the applications for by far the greater portion of this area were in the names of three or four applicants. It seems now almost incredible that it should not have been apparent to every one at the time that this amount of land could not be required for the purpose of *bonâ fide* tea planting, and that the demand must be the outcome of a dangerous spirit of speculation. According to the clearance conditions of the rules, the applicants for these lands would have been bound to bring into cultivation nearly 140,000 acres in ten years. To do this they would have required about 140,000 laborers, while it was well known that the total population of the district at that date scarcely exceeded that number. Again, it would have required a capital of from £5,000,000, to £7,000,000 to have brought the required acreage under cultivation, even if labour had been procurable at the rates then current; and the most sanguine believer in the profits to be made from tea planting could scarcely have expected that even the smaller sum was likely to be at the command of the applicants. It ought to have been evident that the latter, attracted by the long rent-free term, and seeing the eagerness of the general public to obtain land for tea purposes, had applied for the greater part of the lands, in the hope of being able to sell it before the end of the first five years, when it would become liable to resumption under the clearance conditions; and the Government, in spite of any temporary odium it might have incurred thereby, should have refused to sanction all such grants.

The evils of this reckless speculation in waste lands were greatly aggravated by the inadequacy of the provisions for demarcation and survey made in the Assam rule. It is probable that there is scarcely anywhere in the world more difficult ground to demarcate and survey than the forest jungles of Assam and Cachar. The mere work of cutting lines through the jungle preparatory to survey is far more costly and troublesome than the actual survey of any cultivated tract could be; and the jungle grows so rapidly that these lines disappear in a few months, leaving no trace of the boundaries, unless most substantial and durable marks have been put up. Yet the sole provision made by the Assam rules for this important object was, that a sum of money sufficient to provide a proper survey of the boundaries by a compass ameen should be deposited. The result was that in many, possibly in most cases, the compass ameen sent in a fancy sketch of an almost imaginary tract of land, which was generally found, when the professional survey went over the ground some years later, to bear very slight resemblance to the real grant. Sometimes the grant had no real existence whatever; sometimes it was far away, in wilds inhabited by wild tribes, who owe merely a nominal allegiance to Government, and who would probably have taken the head of the grantee if he had attempted to take possession. Thus grants in the very heart of the Lushai

country have been sold by the original applicants at the rate of 10 shillings per acre to tea companies formed in London. I need scarcely say that the purchasers never took possession of them. I shall not dwell here upon the way in which native interests in, and claims to, these lands were sacrificed. That subject has had much attention paid to it of late, and my object here is to show how much mischief was done to the tea industry by the well meant, but injudicious, means taken to encourage it. The single safeguard against land-jobbing and reckless speculation in the Assam rules was the clearance condition, and this was very ineffectual, for people took up land which they were unable to make use of, hoping either that they might dispose of it to advantage before the time for inquiry arrived, or that they might be allowed to commute the leasehold to a fee-simple tenure on favorable terms; for almost from the outset, constant pressure was brought to bear upon Government to allow Assam rule grantees the privilege of reclaiming their holdings.

While the clearance conditions were thus wholly insufficient to check over-speculation in taking up lands under the Assam rules, their effect was positively mischiveous, after lands had been taken up, by forcing the lessees to attempt to extend tea cultivation beyond what their resources both in capital and labour permitted. Mr. Edward Money, in the essay from which I have already quoted a passage, says that "gardens might be seen in those days (*i.e.*, in years preceding 1866) with 200 acres of so-called cultivation, but with 60 or even 70 per cent. vacancies, in which the greater part of the labour available was employed in clearing jungle for 100 acres further extension in the following spring." This was written long after the mischief had been done; but at the very beginning of these unnecessary and wilful extensions, as Mr. Money elsewhere calls them, Colonel Jenkins, Commissioner of Assam, had given the following warning in a letter written in 1859. It is certain that planters have been attempting to push on their cultivation to a greater extent than the means of procuring labour in the province rendered judicious and prudent * * *. I think I shall not exaggerate when I say that we have now fully one-third more land planted with tea plants than can be properly farmed, and that the two-thirds fully cultivated would produce more tea than the whole quantity in its present state of culture; in other words, the little labour we have is wasted in useless extension of plantations. It seems strange that neither Colonel Jenkins nor Mr. Money perceived that these unnecessary, wilful, and useless extensions were in a great measure due to the reckless way in which land was given away by Government, combined with the clearance conditions of the Assam rules.

The clearance conditions, however, were not altogether useless; for they have enabled Government to resume many hundred thousand acres of land, most of which should never have been granted and which would, if retained by the grantees, have caused serious inconvenience, and even danger.

The fee-simple rules.

In October 1861 Lord Canning published a resolution, in which he sanctioned the alienation of waste lands in fee-simple and the redemption of the land revenue of waste lands already granted on leasehold tenures. The

resolution also contained an outline of the rules which His Excellency proposed to make. These, which are called Lord Canning's rules in the present correspondence, were considerably modified at the instance of the Secretary of State, and on the 30th August 1862 a fresh set of rules was issued by the Government of Bengal. These last are known as the fee-simple rules. They provided that all unassessed waste lands in which no right of proprietorship or exclusive occupancy was known to exist, should be available for purchase unless specially reserved by Government. Ordinarily, no lot was to exceed 3,000 acres, but there was no limitation to the number of lots any one person might obtain. Each lot, if available for purchase, was to be put up to auction at an upset price of Rs. 2-8 an acre. The price might be paid in instalments within ten years of the completion of the purchase.

All grantees of leasehold land were allowed to redeem in perpetuity the future revenue of their grants, or of any compact part of them, by the payment of an amount equal to the present value of all future payments under the leases, which, for the purposes of the rule, were treated as if they were perpetual. The most important point of difference between these rules and Lord Canning's is that under the latter the land was given to the applicant at fixed rates, ranging from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 5, while the fee-simple rules required that it should be put up to auction. This provision was very distasteful to speculators, who complained that after they had spent time, trouble, and money in searching for a suitable piece of land, they were liable to lose it altogether, or to have to pay more than its value for it at the auction-sale; and from the time of the introduction of the system there was an agitation for the re-introduction of leasehold tenures, which had been discontinued under a clause in the fee-simple rules. Another provision, which was much objected to, was one requiring the demarcation and survey of each lot previous to sale; and in consequence of the pressure brought to bear on Government on this matter, the survey condition was subsequently suspended by a supplementary rule. The consequences of this were most unfortunate. An Act (XXIII of 1863) had been passed for the adjudication of claims to waste lands disposed of under the rules. It provided that after waste lands had been once sold, no claim to it should be allowed to affect the title of the auction-purchaser, but that any rights proved to exist, if claimed within three years of the date of delivery of the land, should be bought out by a payment from the Government treasury. If, therefore, a native having an interest in land applied for under the fee-simple rules, failed to establish his claim previous to the auction, he lost all his right to the land itself; and when the survey rule was suspended, it became practically impossible for him in many cases to find out that his rights were imperilled till the auction was over and delivery of the land given. On the other hand, it has happened that a grantee has purchased and received possession of one piece of land and got a title deed describing one quite different.

Many instances exemplifying one or both of these evils have occurred within my experience, out of which I shall give one. Soon after the survey clause was suspended, an application was made

for a piece of land in Cachar, the boundaries of which were specified in the application and defined more minutely in a subsequent petition. The land, as so defined, was, after the prescribed preliminaries, sold to the applicant by public auction, and a title deed given to him, in which the boundaries of the land were described. Then the purchaser took possession of the piece of land which he had applied for, which was afterwards demarcated by a settlement survey officer and surveyed by the professional survey party.

It was then found that portions of the land so demarcated and surveyed were occupied by native cultivators, who held under leases dated many years previous to the auction-sale, and who had been paying revenue to Government for their holdings. The fee-simple grantee brought a case in the civil court to eject these men, and the Moonsiff gave a decree in his favour. This decision was appealed against, and the case came before me as District Judge. On my reading over the papers it struck me that the land in dispute, which I knew personally, could not be situated within the boundaries detailed in the title deed; and on further examination it turned out that the land described in the latter was about four miles distant from that actually held by the grantee, to which he had no legal title whatever, while he had never seen, and did not want, the land actually granted to him. He therefore asked to have the title deed cancelled, and to have as much of the land in his possession as had not been previously settled with natives granted to him. I recommended that this should be done, and the arrangement was sanctioned. Now, if the boundaries had been correctly described in the original title deed, the rights of the land-holders would have been sacrificed, and they would not have been even entitled to compensation from Government, as the ejectment case was not brought until more than three years after the delivery of the land. As it was, the auction-purchaser had been for years in possession of, and sinking money in, land to which he had no title, and he might be doing so to the present time if it had not been for the accident of the case coming before an officer who knew the ground. This case also shows how slight is the value of a survey made after the alienation of waste lands, if the boundaries have not been carefully defined and marked on the ground before making the grant.

The rule which allowed the redemption of leaseholds under the rules previously in force did not, as it stood at first, provide for any inquiry into the extent to which the clearance conditions had been complied with, or for the survey or identification of the grant redeemed. The consequence was that in more than one instance within my recollection the deluded shareholders of English companies, acting under the advice of lawyers at home, paid large sums for the redemption of the land revenue of imaginary grants, such as I described above. In most of these cases, however, the grantees were afterwards allowed by Government to transfer the payments to the credit of their *bonâ fide* grants on giving up all claim to these paper holdings.

Cultivation leases.

In the same way as the dislike felt to the clearance clauses in the old Assam rules led to the fee-simple rules, so did the agitation against the sale of lands by open auction induce Government to permit lands to be taken up on thirty

years' leases for the purpose of cultivating tea. When orders to this effect where passed by the Government of Bengal in 1864, the Board of Revenue drew up a set of rules, under which it proposed that these leases should be granted, but these rules were not sanctioned by Government. It was decided that the leases should be given in whatever manner was customary in each district, that they should be for thirty years, and at rates which varied in different districts. There was no efficient provision made for the survey and demarcation of the leaseholds, or for the protection of native interests. These omissions have had very grave results in Darjeeling, the only district in which much land has been taken up on this tenure; for there is much uncertainty about grant boundaries in this district, and the interests of cultivating occupants have been sacrificed in many instances.

Evil results of foregoing rules.

There can be no doubt that the reckless speculation and insane attempts to extend cultivation which led to the depression of the tea industry in 1866 and the following years were very much encouraged by the way in which waste lands were dealt with by Government. The cardinal error which misled the able and well-meaning administrators whose action did so much injury to the industry they meant to foster, seems to have been an idea that they were bound to work on some general principles of economical or political science of universal application, instead of finding out what were the actual conditions under which the tea industry would have to be carried on in Bengal, and shaping their policy accordingly. At no time does any consideration appear to have been given to the question how far the difficulty of obtaining labour should affect the action of Government in dealing with land. This last subject is of such great importance that I shall here anticipate some of the conclusions which should come more properly lower down under the head of labour. Tea planting requires a larger supply of labour in proportion to the area cultivated than most kinds of agricultural industry. The population in almost all the districts suited for tea is very scanty, and the proportion, even of this available for hired work, is small; consequently early in the history of tea planting the local labour obtainable in Assam and Cachar was found insufficient, and attempts were made to import laborers from more populous districts. But the surplus food produced in the tea districts is very little, and food for the imported laborers had consequently to be imported also. The means of communication with, and in Assam and Cachar are very imperfect; and when large numbers of coolies were imported to meet the demand caused by the excessive extensions of the era of speculation, the importation of food did not keep pace with the increase of mouths, and the machinery for the distribution of the available food was quite insufficient. The consequence was that tens of thousands of the imported laborers died from diseases which I firmly believe were brought on or aggravated by want of proper food, while others were so enfeebled that their labour quite failed to repay the employer the cost of importing them. Even if the sufferings of these unhappy victims were a matter of indifference, the fact should not be overlooked that waste lands cannot be brought under cultivation if the laborers imported to work on them die of the

effects of hunger or become too feeble to work from the same cause. I am convinced that Government, in dealing with waste lands in Bengal, should give the most careful consideration to the question of the labour with which it is proposed to work them—how it is to be obtained, what means there are of paying for it, and how it is to be fed.

Subsequent changes in land rules.

After the collapse of 1866 there were some concessions made to holders of land, one of which was the permission to relinquish lots or portion of lots held under the Assam rule or in fee-simple, transferring previous payments on account of the land so relinquished to other lots held by the same grantee, or to the remaining portion of the same lot. Some time afterwards a rule was made permitting Assam rule grantees, who had not complied with the clearance conditions fully, but who had opened *bonâ fide* tea gardens upon the holdings, to retain compact portions equal to ten times the area of cultivation, the remainder of the land being resumed.

The mischievous rule suspending survey of fee-simple lots was withdrawn in 1869, and in 1871 the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal issued some rules, known as the *ad interim* rules, providing for the reservation from sale of lands likely to be required by Government or claimed by border tribes and for the protection of native rights in lands applied for. In August 1872 the Government of India directed that sales in fee-simple should be discontinued pending the publication of fresh rules, and the Government of Bengal has recently cancelled the orders of 1864, under which cultivation leases have been granted.

Complaints about the difficulty of obtaining land.

It is very strongly urged in many of the letters received in reply to the call of the Government of India, that the present difficulty in obtaining grants of land is a very great obstacle to the full development of the tea industry. I am very much inclined to doubt this. Wherever there is a piece of waste land fit for tea planting and which could be given away by Government without the sacrifice of public or private interests, if such land were applied for by a man intending to make a *bonâ fide* tea garden upon it, and having capital and labour sufficient for the purpose at his disposal, I think it desirable that he should get it on favorable terms after sufficient survey and demarcation; but I do not think that any great increase in the total amount of land held for tea cultivation would benefit the industry as a whole; on the other hand, I fear that it would have an injurious effect on existing gardens.

In the first place, as mentioned, there will be, even after the completion of the Cachar revision, more than 600,000 acres of uncultivated land held in connection with the industry. Much of these, no doubt, is unfit for for tea cultivation, and much more is reserved for grazing, charcoal,' wood for tea boxes, &c.; but even after allowing for all this, there remains a great margin of land fit and available for tea culture which has not yet been utilized. Now, the greater part of this land belongs to concerns which have gone through and gained experience in the trials of past years, and are now prosperous and profitable. Any extension of cultivations they now make are made in a slow and cautious manner. I think we may draw the deduction from this that any rapid extension of cultivation would, in their opinion, be unprofitable.

Again, in the very same districts from which we have complaints of the difficulty of obtaining land, there are still louder complaints on the subject of labour, clearly showing the insufficiency of the present supply to work properly the lands actually under cultivation. This last difficulty, which is in a fair way of being overcome in some districts, will again become very serious if there is a large immediate extension of cultivation. Besides all this, it would appear that much of the demand for land comes from gentlemen employed in the management of concerns belonging to others, and who are anxious to open out gardens on their own account while still retaining their employment. I do not think it advantageous to the interests of the existing body of tea proprietors that this practice should become general. I should be most unwilling to assert that gentlemen employed in tea gardens would consciously sacrifice the interests of their employers to that of their own private speculation, that they would divert labour from the gardens on which they were employed to those which belong to them, or that they would devote more time and attention to the latter than to the former; but I do say that if I were investing in tea shares, I should avoid all companies the managers of which were allowed to have any connection with any concerns in the same districts except those managed by them, while I should do all I could to induce them to invest all their savings in these last.

I do not urge these considerations as reasons against granting land freely, but I think that they cannot be overlooked in examining the question whether the present difficulty in obtaining land is really an obstacle to the full development of the tea industry.

Forest reserves.

There is one point more to be noticed before I leave this part of my subject, viz. the supply of timber for charcoal and tea boxes. Hitherto this has been allowed to adjust itself, and it has been supposed that a portion of the forests granted for tea growing would be reserved for the purpose. I am inclined to think, however, that this source will not be found sufficient ultimately, owing to the mismanagement that prevailed at first, and that it would be well to consider whether Government should not preserve some of its forests with the definite object of supplying charcoal and tea boxes at reasonable rates when private resources come to an end.

Labour.

The question of labour is so intimately connected with that of land, that I shall take it up next, though it comes last in the order in which the different subjects are enumerated in the letter of the Government of Bengal.

The Assam Company does not seem to have had much difficulty in getting a sufficient supply of local labour during the early years of its existence. But soon after the extension of cultivation, which commenced in 1856, complaints of the difficulty of getting labour in all the districts of Assam began to be heard. This difficulty was at first ascribed to the indolence of the native population of Assam, and both planters and some district officials advocated the ruinous expedient of raising the rate of land revenue throughout the division, in the hope of driving the food-producing cultivators to work on tea gardens in order to earn enough money to pay their rents. Some of the district

officers, however, as well as the Commissioner, Colonel Jenkins, saw that the difficulty was mainly owing to the scanty population, and what Colonel Jenkins described as the blind competition of the planters to obtain a sufficiency of labour for themselves. This was in 1859; and it seems from the correspondence that attempts had already been made to import labour from other districts into those of Assam.

Importation of laborers to Assam and Cachar, and Act III of 1863.

In 1858-59 400 laborers were imported into Cachar from Benares, Ghazeepore, Chota Nagpore, and Behar. I have no materials available for the history of the early period of emigration, but it appears that native contractors in Calcutta supplied to the planters laborers who bound themselves to work for five years (possibly sometimes only for three years) in the tea districts. The evils connected with the recruiting and transit of emigrants under this system were so glaring that a special commission was appointed in July 1862 to consider the whole question. The state of things disclosed by their inquiries seems to have been very horrible, and an Act (III of 1863) was passed by the Bengal Legislative Council for the regulation of emigration to the districts of Assam, Sylhet, and Cachar. The main objects of this Act were—first, to make sure that the laborers recruited for the tea districts understood what they were about to do, and have not been deceived by the contractors or their agents; and secondly, to lessen the fearful mortality previous to arrival at the tea districts. How far this latter object was attained I am not able to say, as I have no statistics of an earlier date than that of the introduction of Act III; but it seems that in the first three years after it came into operation the deaths in the contractors' depôts, and on the voyage up, amounted to more than 5,500 out of a total of a few more than 90,000 laborers recruited. As regards the first point, I can say from my own experience, extending over more than nine years, that the Act completely failed; and I can state most positively that the following passage from the valuable report of the Tea Commissioners of 1868 is far from giving an adequate idea of the deplorable condition of the mass of laborers whom I found in Cachar in 1864:—"The laborers have too often been deceived by unprincipled recruiters; they have come up expecting much higher wages and a very different kind of life from what they found. From the time they were recruited till they reached their final destination, they have been guarded not unlike prisoners. They have been told that they were going to a garden in a country where the means of living were plentiful and cheap; where they would receive very high wages and have little to do. They have found themselves set down in a swampy jungle, far from human habitation, where food was scarce and dear, where they have seen their families and fellow laborers struck down by disease and death, and where they themselves, prostrated by sickness, have been able to earn less by far than they could have done in their homes."

In another part of their report the Tea Commissioners refer to an opinion of Captain Money, Deputy Commissioner of Maunbhoom, which they say was supported by the testimony of all the officers of recruiting districts from whom replies had been received. Captain Money wrote: "The general belief in the district is that the recruiters

with the badges and licenses are Government servants, and that the labour in Cachar is on the Sircar's gardens. Coolies are, however, so well taught what to say to the Magistrate when brought up for registration, and what to expect to hear from him, that any attempt at explaining to them the real nature of the work they go to is useless; and I believe in few cases do they discover how false the promises made to them are until they reach the gardens."

It is inexpressibly painful for me even now, when I am convinced that most of the evils of that dark time have disappeared, to look back on the sufferings of many of the coolies who were thus deluded into emigrating into the tea districts during the first years after Act III of 1863 was passed. It is intensely unpleasant to have to write of these things, especially as in doing so I must reflect unfavorably upon the past conduct of a body of men for whom I have unfeigned respect and esteem, among whom are some intimate personal friends, and most of whom have been for years working steadily for the welfare of the laborers employed by them. But even in the present set of letters, particularly in many of those from Assam planters, there are signs that the old evil spirit is not altogether extinct; and I fear that in some quarters the lessons of the past have not been understood, or have been forgotten. I feel therefore that I should not be justified in letting my personal feelings keep me silent, however painful it may be for me to record my experiences.

Mortality among imported labourers.

The mortality among immigrants into the tea districts in the early days of the industry is generally understood to have been great; but few people, I believe, realize how appalling it actually was. The figures have always been imperfect, and from various causes the extent of the mortality seems to have escaped public notice. How fearful it really was may be understood from the following statistics for the first three years after Act III of 1863 was passed, particularly when it is remembered that these figures are necessarily imperfect, and do not include laborers imported before the Act came into force on the 1st May 1863. Between that date and the 1st May 1866, 84,915 laborers were landed in the tea districts. Out of these the revised returns submitted for the year 1866 show that only 49,750, some of whom may have been people on five-year agreements, imported before Act III was passed, remained on the gardens on the 30th June of that year. There were therefore at least 35,165 to be accounted for in addition to those who may have been imported between the 1st May and the 30th June 1866. It is not probable that any out of the 35,165 laborers unaccounted for could have been discharged on the completion of their agreements, for I think that the term of such agreements was three years from the date of arrival in the gardens, and few (if any) coolies recruited under the Act could have reached the districts before the 30th of June 1863. But even if I am mistaken on this point, the returns show that during the first half of 1866 the total number released on completion or in any other way amounted to 3,289, and even in the very improbable event of all these having been imported under Act III, there would remain 31,876 out of the total of 84,915 to be accounted for. All of these

must have died during the three years or have absconded and not been caught, and it is a terrible certainty that the greater number of the latter must have died of hunger or exhaustion in the jungles. Between the 1st July 1865 and the 30th June 1866, 9,147 laborers are returned as having died, and 3,187 as having deserted. The number of laborers returned as being in the districts at the beginning of the first half of this period of twelve months was 33,839, at the end of the first half it was 40,734, and at the end of the second half 49,750. The average, therefore, of the three periods is about 40,000, with 9,147 acknowledged deaths in twelve months, and certainly a large proportion of deaths out of the 3,187 returned as deserters. In the half-year next following, the deaths were returned as 4,758 and the desertions as 1,238, giving for the first eighteen months after Act VI of 1865 was passed an acknowledged mortality of 13,905 and 4,425 desertions, out of which there were probably more than 3,000 deaths. These figures seem still more horrible when it is understood that there were from the outset in all the districts a considerable number of gardens, employing a large proportion of the total labour force, on which the mortality was not abnormally high, and consequently the death-rate on the remaining gardens was higher, and the attendant suffering more intense, than could be gathered from the general results for all the gardens, bad as these last are.

The Tea Commissioners in their report, pages 55 to 63, have gone very fully into the causes of this mortality, and in doing so have made many valuable remarks upon the condition and treatment of imported laborers both in past times and at the period of their inquiry; but there are some points which I think are of radical importance which they do not seem to have paid sufficient attention to. Chief among these are scarcity of food and physical ill-treatment.

Insufficiency of food.

In paragraph 132 of the report, the Commissioners pointed out that want of sufficient food had been a great cause of sickness and mortality among the coolies. But they seem not to have seen how great a cause it was, and to have thought that it existed only in the former years 1865-66. Now, my inquiries commenced in 1864, and were most careful and unceasing. They convinced me that during 1863 and 1864, perhaps even as early as 1862, the number of imported laborers far exceeded the supply of food available for them, and I attributed much of the sickness and mortality of those years to want of food sufficient in quantity and variety to enable the cooly to resist the effects of the climate. Long before I took up the subject, far-sighted planters like the Messrs Davidson had foreseen that an increase in the production of food in the tea districts was necessary to the safety of any system of imported labour, and Mr. James Davidson had taken up land with a view to getting it settled and cultivated with the ordinary food-crops. When, however, the speculative fever set in, this great object was lost sight of, and people thought they could import food as well as labour—or rather that the supply of food would follow the demand created by the importation of labour. Unfortunately they had left out of their calculation the slowness with which things adjust themselves in India, the deficiency of means of communication,

and the imperfect machinery of distribution in sparsely inhabited jungles like those of Assam and Cachar, and years elapsed before the food-supply became really sufficient. In fact, I doubt very much whether it is really sucffiient even now in parts of Assam, and I am convinced that any great and sudden increase of imported laborers would cause a fresh disturbance, that there would be another scarcity and a repetition of the suffering and mortality of past years.

Ill-treatment of laborers.

The miseries of the early immigrants were in too many instances cruelly aggravated by the ill-treatment of their employers. At one time the feeling of the planters as a body towards their imported laborers was most deplorable. The best men looked on them as a thankless, discontented lot, for whose good it was almost useless to try to do anything, and whom it was impossible not to dislike; while among the worse sort of planters this feeling of aversion deepened into a mingling of hatred and contempt that led in some instances to acts of revolting cruelty, and in far more cases than has ever been publicly known to systematic and gross ill-treatment. But however much we may now regret these things, and however strong our determination may be to prevent their recurrence in future, I do not think that we can justly consider the ill-feeling of planters to their coolies during those early years as a matter for surprise ; nor fail to see that there was very much to account for, though certainly not to justify it. In order to judge the planter fairly, we must try to realize his position. It must be remembered that he had staked his fortune on the success of the enterprise, whether as a proprietor or a manager. He had spent money on the original clearance of the garden, on tea seed, nurseries, buildings and any interruption of his operations would have entailed the loss o all that he had spent; while unless he extended them the land itsel might possibly be resumed. To go on further, more labour was absolutely necessary ; he had imported that labour, purchasing it, to use his own phrase, at the rate of perhaps Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 a head. When these laborers arrived, instead of getting willing, strong, able-bodied workers, who would do big tasks and earn good pay, and themselves thrive while benefiting him, he got sullen, discontented people, worthless as laborers, who would not or could not work, and therefore could not earn pay, and whose sole desire he knew to be to escape in any way from the garden, and so rob him of the services he had bought. It was true that they had been deceived, that they were ill-housed, badly fed, sickly, and that no provision had been made for medical relief for them. But the planter was in all probability himself disappointed in the expectations with which he had started ; in his degree he was scarcely better housed or better fed than the coolies; he probably suffered from constant fevers, and he was no better off for medical attendance than they were. Yet he stuck to his work, and it is not a matter for wonder that he was unwilling to make allowance for the coolies not doing theirs ; and as he could not pay them for doing nothing, and they must earn enough to live, he thought that the best thing he could do for them, as well as for himself, was to make them work by any means he could. Some such line of reasoning as this led to the practice of tying up and flogging coolies

who were really physically unfit for work of any kind when the amount of daily task did not come up to what the manager considered they ought to do.

I have reason to believe that this practice was almost universal in Cachar when I first went there in 1863, and I had it on excellent authority that it was at least equally common in Assam. In 1868 Dr. R. B. Davidson stated in his evidence to the Tea Commissioners that as far as his personal knowledge went, the practice of flogging for short work had at that time entirely died out in Cachar. I hoped and believed so; but I shortly after heard of some sickening instances of it, which had occurred in 1867 and had been successfully concealed from the Protector of Laborers. I am almost convinced that there is scarcely a trace of it now, in Cachar at least.

It is not surprising that during these evil times the idea of escaping was always present to the coolies' minds, and it was equally natural that the planters should do all in their power to prevent it. Chowkeydars were posted at every possible outlet from the cooly lines, which in some instances were enclosed by high paliasdes, outside which the coolies were not allowed at night. A reward of Rs. 5 was given to any one catching a runaway cooly, and the dislike felt by the native population to the foreigners was enlisted as well as their avarice. The savage hillmen were in special request to track out fugitives, and I have even heard of one planter who had dogs trained for the purpose. If the coolies were caught they were tied up and flogged, and the reward paid to their capturers was deducted by way of fine from their future earnings. It is to be feared that often runaways, enfeebled by their sufferings in the jungles, died under or from the effects of the floggings they received when caught. Some fatal cases of this kind have been tried judicially: I think that the last was in 1868; and I hope that the practice of flogging runaways has nearly disappeared. But I would call attention to the fact that the idea that flogging is the only suitable and effectual punishment of breach of contract still lingers in the minds of some planters, as may be seen from the letters of Messrs. Stoddard and Eglington in the present correspondence.

Act VI of 1868.

Previous to 1865 a cooly breaking his contract could only be punished legally under Section 492 of the Penal Code, which provides one month's imprisonment in the case of defaulters who have been imported, and there was no provision for the arrest of runaways without warrant; consequently all the proceedings described above were illegal, and might have been stopped if the district authorities had insisted upon the police making an inquiry into every case in which there was reason to believe that runaway coolies had been arrested without a Magistrate's warrant, and had punished severely under the Penal Code any persons convicted whenever such an offence was proved. Of course, if this had been done there would have been a very great outcry against Government and its officers, who would have been accused of obstructiveness and hostility to the interests of the planting community, and no doubt it would have put great difficulty in the way of employers at first. But I am convinced that it would have saved the lives of thousands of laborers whose sufferings seem to me one of the greatest

blots on the modern administration of India; it would have checked most effectually the dishonest speculations and ruinous extensions of the years before the collapse of 1866; and would have hastened by many years the improvement in the manner of dealing with the labour question, which is now one of the most hopeful signs in Cachar and, to a less extent, in Assam. I have long been of opinion that the district executive administration failed most lamentably at this time, and I think it very much to be regretted that the Government, when the evils of the coolies' condition were brought to its notice, did not strengthen the district officers and insist on their protecting the laborers through the existing law, leaving the employer's remedy for breach of contract as it stood before. Instead of this, an Act (VI of 1865) was passed, which gave the employer the power of arresting runaways without warrant, and made the punishment for breach of contract imprisonment, which might be renewed indiscriminately for successive breaches. It also contained many provisions intended for the protection of the laborer, and officers were appointed for the special purpose of enforcing these provisions.

I do not believe that this Act really did much to improve the condition of imported laborers in the tea districts, at least at first. The mortality in the first eighteen months after its introduction was enormous, as shown above, while the number of deserters who were not arrested was also very great. The ill-feeling between the employers and employed was by no means lessened; in fact, it was rather aggravated by the intense irritation felt by the former at the interference of the special protectors, whose periodical visits to the gardens exasperated the planters while doing very little good for the coolies. For these visits were necessarily made at long intervals, and as an ordinary rule, after previous notice had been given; so that planters who did treat their coolies badly were able to put out of sight any inconvenient traces of their misconduct, while managers who were really doing all in their power to improve the condition of their coolies were often prosecuted for comparatively trivial breaches of the minute provisions of the law.

I am convinced that the very geat improvement which has undoubtedly taken place in the condition of imported laborers is scarcely, if at all, due to the direct effect of the Act, and that its main causes have been a complete change in the feelings with which coolies are regarded by their employers and the partial substitution of kindly, elastic, and in a word human relations between the two parties for the rigid, and in many ways cruel, bondage which was practically recognized by the laws of 1865 and 1870. I first noticed signs of improvement in the condition of the laborers and the feeling of their employers towards them during the latter half of 1866. The progress made in 1867 was very rapid, and has continued ever since.

Tea commission of 1865.

In 1868 a commission was appointed to inquire into the state and prospects of tea cultivation in Assam, Cachar, and Sylhet. The Commissioners visited these districts, and made very minute inquiries into the working of the labour lands and the condition of coolies.

The conclusions they came to were, that while in not a few gardens the condition of the laborers was still very unsatisfactory, in many

gardens nothing could exceed the consideration and kindness with which the coolies were treated; "especially," they wrote, "in Cachar, which is much ahead of Assam in this respect, we found their condition in many gardens all that could be desired. Happy and contented, surrounded by their families, earning good wages, and possessing numbers of cows and goats; their daily task was light, and when they were sick, they were treated with the greatest care."

I am happy to be able to say with confidence that the number of such gardens has gone on steadily increasing since the above was written, and that there are at present very few thoroughly unsatisfactory gardens, in Cachar at least. On the other hand, there is much reason to fear that some gardens lately opened are among these few, and this is at present the worst feature about the tea industry. The most promising signs of improvement are undoubtedly the tendency of laborers in Assam and Cachar to continue working in the districts after the completion of their original agreements, and the commencement that has been made of getting people to emigrate to the districts without the instrumentality of the law. On the whole, I believe that if there is no very rapid extension of tea cultivation during the next ten years, there will be a sufficient supply to carry on existing cultivation, and something more; and that if during the next ten years or so there is much progress made in improving means of communication, extending the cultivation of food-staples, and increasing the local population of the tea districts, a very considerable increase in the area cultivated with tea may then be made with comparative safety.

Indigenous labour in Darjeeling and other districts.

The foregoing account of the imported labour employed in tea applies to the districts of Assam, Sylhet, and Cachar, to which alone the Labor Acts have been extended. In Darjeeling and the remaining tea districts the labour has been free, but the reports do not contain sufficient information to enable me to give any detailed account of it.

In the Darjeeling Hills, and to some extent in the Terai, the labour employed is chiefly obtained from Nepaul, which, possibly owing to the impetus given to an increase of population by the security enjoyed under Sir Jung Bahadoor's administration, has for some years back been throwing off swarms of its inhabitants into the neighbouring districts. Major Morton writes in January last that the labour question had not become a serious one in the district, and that Nepaul ought to be able to supply enough for the hills. But he said that there was some uneasiness in the Terai owing to the increased extension, and that there was pretty general talk of getting up Dhangurs. Since then the difficulty has somewhat increased, but I do not think that there is as yet any serious cause for alarm. There can be no doubt that there is at present a tendency to extend cultivation beyond safe limits, and there have been one or two slight symptoms of the appearance of a spirit of antagonism between employers and employed somewhat resembling that which produced such deplorable results in Assam and Cachar. But it will not be difficult for the local executive after the experience of the past to check at the outset any illegal practices; and if the curse of over-speculation could be got rid of, I have no doubt that the good sense and good feeling of the planters would remove all difficulties.

The foregoing remarks on questions connected with land and labour have run to a much greater length than I had originally intended, and I have already exceeded the time allowed me for putting together these notes. I think it best therefore to omit any separate notices of matters connected with the cultivation and manufacture of tea, particularly as my knowledge of these subjects is mainly theoretical. I shall, however, notice one or two of the more important points in the estimate of the position and prospects of the industry in each of the more important districts, which I shall now attempt to give. I shall take the districts in the order adopted in a previous portion of these notes.

Cachar.

I am inclined to think that on the whole tea is in a better position, and that its prospects are more hopeful in Cachar than in any of the other districts. The disadvantages of Cachar are—*1st*, many of the gardens are planted on the sides of steep hills, the soil of which is liable to be washed away by the heavy rains; *2nd*, the soil itself is in many cases of an inferior description; and *3rd*, the class of plant is, as a rule, not good, there being about 70 per cent. of the China variety, 20 per cent. of hybrid, and 10 per cent. of indigenous. Some of the statements which I have seen regarding the extent in which the first drawback exists in the Cachar gardens seem to me very much exaggerated. There are no doubt some gardens in which the plant suffers from the steepness of the hills, and there are a few patches in which the roots have been exposed by the wash of the soil about them; but these cases are really comparatively rare, and the greater portion of the Cachar cultivation is either on ground almost level, or on hills with a not very precipitous slope

The soil of some Cachar gardens certainly seems poor when compared with the magnificent vegetable mould of the Himalayas, but I believe that scarcely any of what is under plant is actually unsuited for tea, while a very great portion is of a very high quality. It is probable that in the course of time manure will have to be more extensively used than hitherto, and that the deficiency in the soil will thus in some measure be remedied.

The third drawback is the most serious of all, for the hard leaf of the China shrub costs more in manufacturing than the soft leaf of the hybrid or indigenous tree, and the tea made from the China leaf, being weaker, has less commercial value. But I believe that even here there is something to be said on the other side. The China plant is very hardy, and I have known it to yield leaf under circumstances that would have been almost fatal to the more delicate hybrid or indigenous species.

It is possible, too, that with high cultivation and changed conditions of existence, the China plant may improve. If it is true that this variety is merely a shrub produced in China by dwarfing artificially the great forest tree which grows from Cachar to Gunda, and known to us as the Munipore indigenous, it may be that now, when it is restored to its original habitat, it might resume some of its lost characteristics if treated in some particular way; but I know nothing of the mysteries of arboriculture, and make the suggestion with great diffidence.

To compensate for the above drawbacks, Cachar has many advantages; the climate is eminently suited for tea, and is, I think, in that respect superior to that of Assam or of the Darjeeling Terai. The labour question is in a fair way of being settled; a large permanent population of tea-workers is being formed in the district, and there is every reason to hope that a natural and healthy system of free labour will soon supplant the artificial and unsafe system of importation under special laws. Meantime the cultivation of food-staples is extending rapidly, and the food-producing population increasing. The Cachar planters, as a body, seem to me to have made more progress than those of any other district in substituting scientific methods in cultivation and manufacture for the crude experiments which caused much loss in earlier times. There seems also to be at present in Cachar less tendency to speculative extensions of cultivation than in some other districts, though in Cachar I believe such extensions could be made with less danger than elsewhere.

Seebsaugor.

The information on the subjects of soil and climate received from Assam is not very full. One gentleman seemed to think that it would be waste of time to give any such information, and very few seem to have grasped the truth clearly indicated in a letter from Mr. Peal of Sepakottie, that the knowledge which must have been acquired during the past years of tea planting, and which is nowhere available in a collected form, would be of inestimable value to all those interested in tea if it could be placed at their disposal.

It is generally supposed that both the soil and climate of Seebsaugor are pre-eminently suited for tea, but I am inclined to think that in both respects Durrung has the advantage. Seebsaugor has an immense advantage over both Cachar and Darjeeling in the superiority of its plant, which is said to be chiefly hybrid. There are some complaints about labour which would seem to indicate that the supply is inadequate; but none of these complaints come from the sub-divisions of Jorehaut and Golaghât, which contain about half the cultivated area in the district; while the manager of the Assam Company, who is by far the greatest employer of labour in the district, seems very hopeful. But there would appear to be a very strong desire to extend cultivation largely in Seebsaugor, and if a large number of coolies should be imported for the purpose, there will probably be much difficulty again. The mortality in the district has been, if not greater in proportion to the coolies employed, still more apalling from the actual number of deaths than it has been in any other district, except perhaps Cachar. I believe that there have been no great extensions of cultivation of food-crops during late years, and the population, though greater in proportion to the area than in some other districts of Assam, is still very scanty.

Darjeeling.

In the Darjeeling district there are two distinct tea-growing tracts, in each of which the industry is carried on under totally different conditions from those under which it is carried on in the other. In the high hills, where the levels of the cultivation range from about 2,500 to about 5,500 feet of altitude, the soil is in many places the best I have seen in any tea

district; but this great advantage is more than counterbalanced by the steepness of the hills on which the tea is grown, and the comparative unsuitability of the climate. The greater proportion of the plants, too, are of the China species, and much of what I have seen is below the average quality of the China plant in Cachar, or even of that in the Dehra Doon. Labour in the Darjeeling Hills has hitherto been a less serious difficulty than in any other great tea district, and machinery has been employed to a greater extent, and seemingly with more success, than elsewhere. But there is now apparent a very dangerous tendency towards speculative extensions of cultivation, which I fear will, unless checked, do much mischief to the existing gardens.

The climate of the Terai is not so well suited to tea as that of Assam or Cachar, and I have seen no soil there that can be compared with much that I have seen in the hill tract; but the lie of many of the gardens is far more favorable to the cultivation of tea than anything I have seen elsewhere. In the Terai, as in other tea districts, labour is the chief difficulty. It is very much to be feared that importation on a large scale will be followed by heavy mortality, for although many of the evils attendant on emigration to Assam will be absent in the Terai, the climate is apparently worse than even that of North Luckimpore.

Durrung.

Durrung seems in some respects to take the lead amongst tea districts. Its teas would seem to be of the finest quality consistent with a large outturn. As I have already said, I am inclined to think that the soil and climate of the district are the best suited to tea of any in Assam. But Durrung seems peculiarly unsuitable to imported laborers. Fortunately there has not been at any time a very large emigration to this district, but the death-rate among those imported has been more horrible than it has been elsewhere; and even in 1871, the last year for which figures are given, the rate was more than 6 per cent. It had been over 11 per cent. the previous year, and in one year—1866—it was nearly 42 per cent. In this district the complaints about the difficulty of getting land are very loud; but I think it is the imperative duty of Government before granting land freely in Durrung to make quite sure that in doing so it is not leading the way to a repetition of this horrible loss of life, which, it must be remembered, is in the case of imported coolies only the index to mental and bodily suffering of a very cruel description.

Luckimpore.

Owing to the incompleteness of the returns from this district and the failure of the majority of the planters to supply information, it is impossible to give a satisfactory estimate of the conditions and prospects of the industry in it. The land is generally very good, and the climate favourable, though unhealthy. There are some enlightened and able planters in the district, such as Mr. James Davidson, of the Upper Assam Company; but the impression I have got from seeing a little and hearing much of Luckimpore, is that in most respects it is the most backward of the great tea districts. It is probably the only district in which much interference between planters and their laborers is excusable. I think that a very strong staff of executive officers should be maintained there, and that no time should be lost in extending means of communication within the district.

The remaining districts are comparatively unimportant, and instead of attempting to consider them separately, I shall conclude by summing up the main heads of the policy which I think should be adhered to by Government in dealing with the tea industry. In the first place, I think we should clearly recognise and act on the fact that no encouragement given by Government can help to the development of the industry beyond certain limits imposed by the conditions of labour, food-supply, &c., under which it has to be carried on. I would here quote a passage in a letter from one of the planters, Mr. James Davidson, of Debroogurh. He says: "I deprecate strongly, on principle, all special legislation, or much interference of any sort, even of a fostering character, from the best intentioned Government in the world." Almost all the past action of Government in its attempts to foster the industry by granting favorable tenures of a special, kind and by giving employers special protection against their labourers, stands condemned when brought to the test of this principle. I do not go so far as Mr. Davidson, but I think that there is more to be said for his view than there is for the converse.

Conclusions.

In dealing with land, I think that the question of labour should not be left out of sight unless Government should determine to withdraw all special protection now given to employers, and to make the laborer theoretically and practically free. I think, too, that speculation and land jobbing should be discouraged, and that no land should be alienated without most careful previous survey and demarcation. In dealing with the labour question, no opportunity should be lost of encouraging free labour as opposed to any system in which special protection is given to the laborer on one hand and to the employer on the other. But then care should be taken to make their labour really free and not to allow the detention of unwilling laborers by illegal means. To this end there should be strong district administration, and officers should be made to feel that the tea industry was not excepted from the jurisdiction of the regular executive authorities and the ordinary law of the country, and that no tenderness for the interests of tea-planting should be allowed to interfere with the suppression of illegal practices. For the rest, roads and other means of communication towards and within the tea districts should be pushed forward as rapidly as the resources of the empire may allow, and no means should be left untried to encourage the increase of the local population and of the cultivation of food-staples in these districts.

J. W. EDGAR.

The 11th September 1873.

THE TEA INDUSTRY IN BENGAL.

No. 74, dated Simla, the 17th June 1872.

From—A. O. HUME, ESQ., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.

THE great and growing importance of the Indian tea trade renders it desirable that the Government of India should be placed in possession of certain general statistics in regard to the present position of tea culture in all parts of the empire.

2. I am therefore desired to request that, with the permission of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, you will take measures for causing the annexed statement to be carefully filled in in regard to all tea plantations or gardens now existing in the Lower Provinces for the present year, and that you will submit the same as soon after the 1st November as may be practicable.

3. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is deeply interested in this important national enterprise, and he does not doubt that, appreciating the interest he feels in their success, the planters as a body will cheerfully furnish the information required.

4. This statement should be accompanied by a brief history of tea-planting, and by a well-considered estimate of the present position and apparent prospects of tea culture, in each district.

5. Opportunity should be taken to ascertain what (if any) obstacles exist in each locality to the fullest development of this important branch of production, and what, if any, measures could properly be adopted by Government in view to facilitating this object. The planters themselves should of course be consulted on these points, because, although considerations of general policy may in many cases render it impossible for Government to do all that those pecuniarily interested in the undertaking might desire or suggest, His Excellency is nevertheless anxious to learn what their views upon this branch of the question are, and to ascertain what, if anything, might in their opinion be done by Government towards encouraging the Indian tea trade.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea Culture in India in 1872.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
PROVINCE.	DISTRICT.	Name of plantation.	Approximate average elevation.	AREA IN ACRES.				APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN lb. AVOIRDUPOIS.										Average yield in lbs. per acre of mature plant.
								Black.					*Green.*				Grand Total.	
				Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.	Congou.	Pekoe.		Fannings.	Total.						

Nos. 3634-38, dated Calcutta, the 16th August 1872.

From—J. WARE EDGAR, ESQ., Officiating Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

To—The Commissioners of Assam, Chittagong, Chota Nagpore, Cooch Behar, and Dacca.

I AM directed to forward to you a copy of a letter from the Agricultural Department of the Government of India, together with a form of statement illustrative of the state of tea culture in India, and to request that you will use every endeavour to obtain the information required, and submit the statement carefully filled up, with a general report on the position and prospects of the industry in your division, as soon as possible after the 1st November next, together with the opinions of planters and others on the points noticed in paragraph 5 of the Government letter.

2. In filling up the statement, I am to observe that the following points should be attended to most carefully:—

Columns 5, 6, *and* 19.—All plant from which tea is made for the market must be taken as mature plant, and the land on which it is grown included in the column headed "mature plants," as well as in the total area on which the average in the last column will be calculated; but you should ascertain and mention in a foot-note at what age of the plant it is usual in your division to begin plucking tea from it, and the age at which the plant is generally considered to come into full bearing. You should also state the quantity of land in your division under plant between these two ages and approximately the amount of tea produced from it.

Column 7.—In this column you will show all the land taken up in your division for purposes connected with tea and not as yet planted out, even though there may be no intention of using it for tea, and though it may be unsuited for the cultivation. You will, however, in a note at the foot of the statement, carefully distinguish the amount actually fitted and meant for tea-planting from that unsuited to the purpose, or used for grazing, timber and charcoal supply, and the like.

Columns 9 *to* 12.—It is not intended that you should be confined to Congou, Pekoe, and fannings under the head of black teas. You will add columns for any distinct classes, such as Souchong and Pekoe Souchong, that may be produced in your division; but the Lieutenant-Governor considers that a minuter classification, such as distinguishing orange and flowery Pekoe, would be undesirable.

3. I am directed to call your particular attention to the following points, which should be specially noticed in the report which will accompany the statement:—

A. The tenure on which lands in your division intended for tea-planting are held.—Each of the special tenures should be briefly described, and the amount of land held under it mentioned. It is believed that in some places land held on the ordinary district terms have been acquired from the native holders and are used for tea-planting. You should mention if there are any intances of this in your division, the amount of land so acquired, if possible, and the nature of the tenure on which it is held.

B. Facts connected with cultivation.—The Lieutenant-Governor thinks it would be well to mention briefly the conditions of soil and climate under which tea has been found to thrive most in your division, the extent to which manure has been used, and the general results of its application; the description of plant most common in the division, *i.e.*, whether China or an indigenous or hybrid species; and whether any successful attempts have been made to improve the character of the two first mentioned.

C. Manufacture.—The point to be chiefly noted here is the extent to which machinery has been introduced into the various manufacturing processes, and with what success.

D. Labor.—The Lieutenant-Governor would like to have a brief, but careful, notice of the past history and present aspect of the labor question in your division. You should state the class and description of laborers who work in the gardens of each district, distinguishing indigenous from imported laborers in the districts to which the Emigration Acts have been extended, and the districts or provinces from which the imported laborers come. You should mention whether laborers, who have not been imported under any special law, are residents of the immediate neighbourhood of the gardens, or whether they have gone to them from a distance, induced by the prospect of getting work. The approximate numbers of indigenous laborers should be given. In districts in which laborers are employed under the special emigration law, you should distinguish between laborers still bound by the original contract on which they were imported from what are called time-expired laborers, giving the numbers of each. You should also state generally the result of the system of recruiting by garden-sirdars made legal by Act II (B.C.) of 1870. The average rate of wages earned by each class of laborers, indigenous and imported, should also be given. You should very particularly notice the rates of mortality in past years and at the present time.

4. In regard to the obstacles or difficulties suggested in reply to paragraph 5 of the Government letter, you should very carefully examine any complaints or suggestions which seem to have substantial foundation, should make clear the facts, and should say what in your opinion may and should be done, or why difficulties are insuperable.

5. In mentioning the above points, the Lieutenant-Governor does not mean to give an exhaustive list of the subjects to be touched on in the report. His Honor merely wishes to indicate the subjects on which he wishes for information from all divisions, and he will be very glad if you will take up any matter not here mentioned which you may consider worth noticing.

No. 3372, dated Camp Rabo, the 15th December 1872.

From—COLONEL E. T. DALTON, C.S.I., Commissioner of the Chota Nagpore Division,

To—T. WALTON, ESQ., Offg. Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

WITH reference to your letter No. 3636 of the 16th August last, I do myself the honor to submit statements regarding tea plantations in this province called for in Mr. A. O. Hume's letter No. 74 of the 17th June preceding, and to subjoin an abstract of the information received from the Deputy Commissioners of Hazareebaugh and Lohar-duggah (in whose districts alone tea-planting has been tried) in reply to the questions asked.

2. The Ramgurh tea plantation in the Hazareebaugh district was established more than twelve years ago, but it cannot be said to have answered well, as only in one unusually favourable season did it pay the working expenses of the year.

3. There is no indigenous tea in the district. The company commenced with the China species, but this was, after due trial, put aside and the hybrid species introduced.

4. There are two other plantations, Moudhi and Jhumra. These are not so old as the Ramgurh, but the above remarks apply to them. None of them appear to work profitably at present. The lands belonging to each company are held on leases from the Maharajah of Ramgurh for twenty years, with promise of renewal. That of Moudhi was given "for four twenty-year periods, the annual rent being doubled at the expiration of each period, and at the expiration of the eighty years at a fixed annual rent amounting to one anna more per rupee than the annual rent during the fourth period."

5. The outturn of mature plants per acre does not speak well for the soil or climate of Hazareebaugh as a tea-growing district, viz. Ramgurh 31lb, Jhumra 50lb, and Moudhi 80lb per acre.

6. The labour question can hardly be said to arise. The Ramgurh Company employ labourers from Chota Nagpore, mostly Native-Christians, who live on the estate with their families and are well provided for; but there is no difficulty in obtaining indigenous labour to any extent. The only objection made to the local labourers is that they are apt to quit employment when they have the main work on their own fields to attend to. No imported coolies are employed.

7. There are two small tea plantations in the Loharduggah district, of which statements filled up by the owners or gentlemen in charge are submitted. The lands belong to the confiscated Burkagurh estate, and were leased with their villages to the tea-planters, but under recent orders other arrangements have to be made.

8. It would appear from the outturn per acre that the soil and climate are better suited to tea in Loharduggah than in Hazareebaugh, but this is doubtful. The difference is, I think, from higher cultivation in the former district, or more successful treatment. The soil has been declared to be naturally too poor for tea, and manuring is resorted to. The only hope of success consists in the cheapness and abundance of labour.

9. I submit herewith a statistical return for the whole division, giving the results taken from the statements drawn up by tea-planters, and those statements and the reports which accompanied them in original.

Divisional

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Area in acres.			
Province.	District.	Name of plantation.	Approximate average elevation.	Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.
				Acres.	Acres.		Acres.
Chota Nagpore.	Hazareebaugh	Jhumrah ...	2,300 feet above the sea.	150	30	Jungle fit for planting, 100 acres; unsuited, being rock and hill, 400 acres.	680
		Ramgurh Tea Company, Limited.	2,000 feet ...	326	......	About 1,000 acres.	326
		Moudhi Hill ...	Not given ...	150	4	......	154
	Loharduggah	Palandoo ...	2,000 feet ...	184	......	......	184
		Hotewar ...	2,100 feet ...	35	25	100 acres ...	160
	Singbhoom and Maunbhoom.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

Camp Rabo,
The 15*th December* 1872.

Statement.

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS.										Average yield in lb per acre of mature plant.
Black.					*Green.*					
Congou.	Pekoe.	Souchong.	Fannings.	Total.	Hyson.	Gunpowder.	Imperial.	Dust.	Grand total.	
lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.				lb.	lb.
...	7,000	...	100	7,100	400	......	......	......	7,500	50
...	...	...	...	...	67 per cent.	14 per cent.	8 per cent.	11 per cent.	20,000	62
190	2,380	600	...	3,170	G. Hyson. 5,680lb.	Hyson. 1,960lb.	Gunpowder. 776lb.	Imperial. 414lb.	12,000	80
1,000	8,000	11,000	500	20,500	......	......	......	......	20,500	111
300	300	2,500	100	3,200	......	......	......	......	3,200	91
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

E. T. DALTON,

Commissioner of the Chota Nagpore Division.

No. 1055, dated Hazareebaugh, the 7th December 1872.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. M. BODDAM, Deputy Commissioner of Hazareebaugh,

To—COLONEL E. T. DALTON, C.S.I., Commissioner of the Chota Nagpore Division.

Letter No. 3636, dated the 16th Agust 1872, from the Offg. Junior Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your memorandum No. 2455, dated 26th August 1872, forwarding correspondence as per margin, and to inform you that, in accordance with your instructions, I forwarded copies to all the managers of tea plantations in this district, and prayed that the necessary information might be given me.

2. Unhappily this call was made at the time the managers were most busily employed.

3. We had no early rain in the first four months of the year, and the latter or heavy rains did not commence till much later than usual, consequently the planters were obliged to take advantage of every flush and to make as much tea as they could, and have not had time to devote to give me the statistics I applied for, beyond filling up the forms sent to them, with the exception of Mr. Arnold Thompson, who has furnished a short report, copy of which I annex.

Seetagarah, Moudhi, and Jhumra.

4. There are three tea gardens in this district, as per margin.

5. The Ramghur Company's tea garden is situated at Seetagarah at the base of Chandwarah, about four miles due east of Hazareebaugh. The land is held partly on a twenty-years' lease (with option of renewal) from the zemindar of Ramghur, and partly on a mokurreree lease from some of the sub-tenure holders of the zemindar.

6. Mr. Liebert has not furnished me with the necessary statistics; but this company holds about 1,000 acres of land altogether, much of the land having been allowed to relapse into waste after having been prepared for extension of cultivation.

7. The soil and climate of this district are not, in my opinion, fitted for tea cultivation.

8. The Ramghur tea plantation is now some twelve years old, and has only in one favourable year just paid the usual expenditure of that year.

9. There is no indigenous tea in the district. The Ramghur Company began by planting the China species, but this was speedily superseded by a hybrid plant.

10. Cattle manure is used when obtainable, but the supply is small and uncertain.

11. No machinery has been introduced into any of the tea plantations; manual labour being cheap and abundant, consequently less costly than machinery.

12. The Ramghur Tea Company employs a number of Kols from Chota Nagpore, almost all of whom are Christians, and who have now brought their families and reside in the tea plantation; but indigenous labour to any extent is easily obtainable.

13. There is always the drawback, as noticed by Mr. Thompson in his report, that the labourers may suddenly quit the gardens in order

to sow or reap their own crops, and perhaps at the very moment their services are most emergently required by the planter.

14. With regard to the Jhumra Concern, Mr. Thompson has given all the slight information I could give, and it is therefore useless to reiterate t'.ɔ same.

15. The Moudhi Hill Concern belongs to Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie & Co.

16. It is also held on a twenty-years' lease from the zemindar of Ramghur, with option of renewal.

17. The remarks regarding the Seetagarah plantation already made by me apply very much to this plantation.

18. Were the climate of the district suitable to tea-growing, this plantation should now be giving a good return to the shareholders; but although the public are kept by the manager and the proprietors in the dark as to the actual outturn, I believe it is a well-known fact that it has not yet paid a dividend, or one of very infinitesimal dimensions.

19. Mr. Thompson in the conclusion of his report alludes to the loss sustained by his tea plantation from an extensive jungle fire.

20. I fear this is an obstacle that no legislative interference could put a stop to. All over the district it is the custom a little before the commencement of the rainy season, when the scrub and jungle are quite dry, to set fire to them, and thus to ensure, at the first fall of rain, a growth of grass for the sustenance of the village cattle, which are then turned into the hills to graze.

21. If any one could be caught who had set fire to a jungle, and had thereby caused any mischief, he might under the present laws be punished for his act; but, in fact, the actual person who set fire to a jungle could not be found, except by some great accident, and consequently even if the setting fire to jungle were prohibited by legislature, the prohibition could not be enforced, as no police force in the world could prevent people from setting fire to the jungle, if so minded, and a jungle once alight, no power could prevent the fire spreading.

22. I have not heard of a similar complaint from the other planters.

Dated Jhumra Tea Plantation, the 20th September 1872.

From—A. H. THOMPSON, ESQ., Manager, Jhumra Tea Plantation,
To—The Deputy Commissioner of Hazareebaugh.

IN submitting you the accompanying statement regarding this plantation, I have the honor to report on the different points on which information is requested, as follows :—

A.—Tenure.

The land, as uncleared hill and jungle, was obtained on lease from the late Rajah of Ramgurh for four twenty-year periods, the annual rent being doubled at the expiration of each period; and again, at the expiration of the eighty years, at a fixed annual rent, amounting to one anna in the rupee more than the annual rent for the fourth period.

B.—Facts connected with cultivation.

The soil of Jhumra is considered to be good for tea, being that generally known as virgin forest soil.

The climate is very uncertain, being fair on an ordinary season, but extremely trying for some seasons: for instance, the present year of 1872, when great loss both of plant and crop has been experienced.

Manure has been but slightly used, as anything but vegetable mould or green manure is difficult to be obtained; where animal manure has been applied, it has been found to give good results. The plant now at Jhumra is mostly "hybrid;" when started in 1863, some seed was obtained from Kumaon which was almost pure China, and some from Darjeeling which was a good hybrid, and some from Assam which was indigenous. For the last two years some trees have been allowed to seed, and we have now an excellent plant of the hybrid species, the produce of the garden, with which all vacancies are being filled up, and the China plant is being gradually removed.

C.—Manufacture.

In no part of the manufacture has any machinery been introduced, as it is supposed that hand labor is cheaper and answers best.

D.—Labour.

The coolies on the garden have hitherto come of their own accord for service from the neighbouring villages. The castes are Ghatwars, Kadnes, Kurmees, Kurmallees, Bhooiyas, and Sonthals. On an average 100 men and 50 women are employed; the pay of a man being Rs. 3-4 per month, and that of a woman 1 anna for every day she works. There is great difficulty in obtaining the required daily number, as the population is scarce, and the people are lazy and appear indifferent to employment. Great trouble in the accounts and loss to the work is caused by the numbers that absent themselves for days together to go to their houses, where most of them retain an interest in or work lands. An endeavour is consequently now being made to import some Danghurs or Kols from Chota Nagpore, who, it is hoped, will answer better than local labour. As the coolies are generally in good health, the mortality is small.

With reference to paragraph 5 of the Government letter, you are aware from my letters to your address, dated the 8th of May and 27th of June 1872, that upwards of an acre of tea on this garden was burnt down in the spring, in consequence of a very extensive jungle fire which surrounded the plantation, and which originated in the jungle appertaining to the village of Potum Monda, near the south base of this hill. These letters also informed you that such fires are of constant occurrence during the spring, and that they also do much harm to the wood of the forest. In this place I can only repeat my former suggestions, and solicit the favour of some instructions being issued to the zemindars of the surrounding villages, directing them to take every possible care to prevent the spread of such fires in my direction, or possibly the Government may see fit to legislate on such an important subject. These fires and the labor (local) difficulty already mentioned are great drawbacks to successful tea cultivation at Jhumra.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea Culture in India in 1872.

Province.—Chota Nagpore.
District.—Hazareebaugh.
Name of plantation.—Jhumra.
Approximate average elevation.—2,300 feet above the sea.

Area in Acres.

Mature plants.—150 acres.
Immature plants.—30 acres.

Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Jungle fit for planting ..	100 acres.
	Unsuited, being rock and hill	400 „
	Total ..	680 „

Approximate yield in 1872 *in* lb *Avoirdupois.*

				lb
Black	.. Pekoe	..	..	7,000
	Fannings	..	..	100
		Total	..	7,100
Green	.. Hyson	..	..	400
		Grand Total	..	7,500

Average yield in lb per acre of mature plant.—50lb

JHUMRA, A. H. THOMPSON,
The 20th September 1872. *Manager.*

Note.—The age at which a tea-plant is first plucked at Jhumra is four years; the age it comes to maturity is seven years; the ages of the plants on the 30 acres noted in column 6 vary from one to four years. The quantity of tea made from these 30 acres is so small that it cannot be separately noted. The acres noted in columns 7 and 8 are bare approximations, as they have never been measured, and include a vast quantity of rock and hill.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea Culture in India in 1872.

Province.—Chota Nagpore.
District.—Hazareebaugh.
Name of plantation.—Ramgurh Tea Company, Limited.
Approximate average elevation.—2,000 feet.

Area in Acres.

Mature plants.—326.*
Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.—About 1,000 acres.
Total .—326.

Approximate yield in 1872 *in* lb *Avoirdupois.*

Green	.. Hyson kinds	..	..	67 per cent.
	Gunpowder	..	..	14 „
	Imperial	..	..	8 „
	Dust	..	..	11 „
		Grand Total	..	20,000lb

Average yield in lb per acre of mature plant.—62lb

SEETAGARAH, MAX. LIEBERT,
The 5th December 1872. *Manager.*

* Containing 35 per centum of vacancies partly filled up with young plant in 1872.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea Culture in India in 1872.

Province.—Chota Nagpore.
District.—Hazareebaugh.
Name of plantation.—Mowilee Hill.

Area in Acres.

Mature plants.—150 acres.
Immature plants.—4 acres.
Total —154 acres.

Approximate yield in 1872 *in* ℔ *Avoirdupois.*

			℔
Black	Congou		190
	Pekoe		2,380
	Souchong		600
		Total	3,170
Green	Y. Hyson		5,680
	Hyson		1,960
	Gunpowder		776
	Imperial		414
		Total	8,830

Average yield in ℔ per acre of mature plant.—1 maund per acre.

J. Bowman,
Manager.

No. 2477, dated Ranchee, the 19th November 1872.

From—H. L. Oliphant, Esq., Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga̤h,
To—The Commissioner of the Chota Nagpore Division.

With reference to your memorandum No. 2455 of the 26th August last, forwarding copy of Government circular No. 3636 of the 16th idem, with enclosure from the Government of India in connection with the tea trade, I have the honor to submit the required report.

2. In this district there are at present only two gentlemen who are engaged in tea cultivation, Mr. Stainforth and Mr. Grose, whose plantations are situate respectively at Hotiwar and Palandoo, both villages in the neighbourhood of Ranchee, the head-quarters of the district.

3. I beg to annex herewith copies of the reports received from these gentlemen, together with statements in the prescribed form duly filled in.

4. The villages in which these plantations are situate form a portion of what is known as the Burkagurh estate, formerly the property of Thakoor Bishonath Sahie, who was hanged as a rebel at the time of the Mutiny, his estate being confiscated by the Government

at the same time. Since the introduction of tea-planting in 1862, the villages have been held by these gentlemen on temporary leases granted them by the Government and renewed from time to time as they fall in; the estate, however, is now under litigation, a suit having lately been instituted in the civil court by the heirs of the rebel Thakoor with a view to try and recover possession of the estate from the Government.

5. Tea cultivation, I believe, cannot be said on the whole to have proved a successful experiment here. Both soil and climate are very much against it: the former is said to be very poor and deficient in moisture and organic matter, and its whole nature has to be changed by the application of liberal supplies of manure, without which the plant cannot produce leaf as it ought to, or prove remunerative. The climate, too, is very trying, the fierce hot winds and long drought proving generally most destructive to plants.

6. The tea produced here is said to be excellent both in strength and flavor, but the plant may be said to be raised with difficulty and to be of slow growth. It seldom produces leaf to any useful extent in the spring; and while ordinarily in other districts one-fourth of the crop is produced before the rains, the crop here is almost entirely gathered during the rainy season.

7. The labour question, as remarked by Mr. Stainforth, is not known here. The people who are employed in the plantations are Kols, and labour is cheap and plentiful, and this is the one great feature here in favour of the cultivation.

8. Mr. Stainforth in his note makes mention of the want of a good cart-road to the railway, and there is no doubt that this is a want much felt by tea-planters and other classes of people during the rainy season. The subject of improving the line of communication between this and Raneegunge and Burrakur, has however, as you are aware, been under the consideration of the Government, and orders have recently been received for the erection of bridges and the general and thorough improvement of the road; the complaint put forward on this head will therefore, I trust, in the course of a few years, entirely be removed.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea Culture in India in 1872.

Province.—Chota Nagpore.
District.—Loharduggah.
Name of plantation.—Hotewar.
Approximate average elevation.—2,100 feet above the level of the sea.

Area in Acres.

Mature plants.—35 acres.
Immature plants.—25 acres.
Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.—100 acres.
Total.—160 acres.

Approximate yield in 1872 in ℔ *Avoirdupois.*

			℔
Black ..	Congou	.	300
	Fine Pekoe	.	300
	Pekoe Souchong	.	2,500
	Fannings	.	100
	Total		3,200
	Grand Total		3,200

Average yield in ℔ per acre of mature plant.—91,542℔

Note.—Tea-planting has been carried on in this district since 1862. Planters suffered through want of experience at the outset, but have since recovered themselves and are now doing fairly well. The only serious obstacle they have to contend against is the difficulty of procuring cheap carriage to market, the result of bad roads. A good cart-road to the railway would be a great boon to settlers here, as their money, which now lies idle nearly all the rains, could then be turned over twice in the year. The labour question is not known here.

HOTEWAR FACTORY,
The 4th November 1872.

H. STAINFORTH,
Manager.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea Culture in India in 1872.

Province.—Chota Nagpore.
District.—Loharduggah.
Name of plantation.—Palandoo.
Approximate average elevation.—2,000 feet.

Area in Acres.

Mature plants.—184.
Total.—184.

Approximate yield in 1872 *in* ℔ *Avoirdupois.*

			℔
Black ..	Congou	.. .. ..	1,000
	Fine Pekoe	.. .. ..	8,000
	Pekoe Souchong	.. .. ..	11,000
	Fannings	.. .. ..	500
	Total	..	20,500
	Grand Total	..	20,500

Average yield in ℔ per acre of mature plant.—111℔

PALANDOO FACTORY,
The 20th September 1872.

G. H. GROSE,
Manager.

Dated Palandoo, the 20th September 1872.

From—G. H. GROSE, ESQ., Manager, Palandoo Tea Plantation,
To—H. L. OLIPHANT, ESQ., Deputy Commissioner of Loharduggah.

WITH reference to your memorandum No. 1911, I have the honor, in compliance with your request, to furnish statement with respect to the tea plantation under my management, and to state that no land

has been reserved for the extension of the cultivation in connexion with this factory, inasmuch as the climate has not been found suitable to the growth of the tea-plant. The land under tea cultivation consists of 184 acres, all of which are under bearing. Large vacancies exist throughout the garden, indicating the effects of drought and heat. For the last three years a large number of plants have been planted out, not in extension of the area under cultivation, but in filling up vacancies and creating a new line between the old rows. Manuring is essential for the poor soil of the district, and it has been used with some advantage. The China and hybrid variety of the tea-plants are both cultivated, but the hybrid is in most esteem. Labour being cheap, machinery is unnecessary in this district. The factory is independent of coolie lines, as the population of the neighbouring villages is more than ample for the purposes of the factory. During the recent planting season more than 250 men were daily employed by the factory, besides about 150 women and children; the allowance, at Rs. 2 per month, and for skilled workmen from Rs. 2-8 to 5-8; the women and children from 3 pice to 2 annas and more per day for plucking leaf at a contract rate, the usual rate for women being only Rs. 1-8 per month.

Less than one-fourth of the land under cultivation has been obtained from the original cultivators for a pecuniary consideration, and the rest consisted of waste jungle land. A large extent of land might no doubt be obtained from the ryots for a consideration, were the inducement to grow tea satisfactory, as the Kols do not care much for their *tar* or high lands, which alone are suitable for the tea-plant, and as they are now well assured that it would be for their advantage by giving them the thing they want—employment. There are several thousand acres of hill jungle land from which the factory obtains charcoal and small sâl wood only fit for inferior building purposes. The larger portion of the land is unfit for cultivation. The great desideratum of the people is a vent for local industry, their spawning capacity being remarkable; the population is rapidly increasing, and a large number of them must from force of circumstances emigrate, there being no demand, or insufficient, for local or surplus labor.

No. 851, dated Julpigoree, the 1/8th March 1873.

From—R. J. Richardson, Esq., c.s., Offg. Commissioner of the Cooch Behar Division,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.

In reply to your letter No. 3637 of 16th August last, calling for certain information regarding tea culture in this division, I have the honor to submit the replies of district officers to the questions contained therein.

2. Colonel Haughton, whose local knowledge of the division was great, did not leave any note on the subject. I have no experience about tea culture, and considering that my successor is not likely to be able to add anything to the information contained in the district officers' reports for at least some time after taking charge, and as the report was due on the 1st November last, I submit the reports of district officers without comments from myself.

No. 214C, dated Camp Darjeeling Terai, the 31st January 1873.

From—Major B. W. Morton, Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling,

To—The Offg. Commissioner of the Cooch Behar Division.

No. 74, dated 17th June 1872, from Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, to Secretary, Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.

Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, Revenue, to Commissioner of Cooch Behar, Nos. 3684-38, dated 16th August 1872.

I have the honor, with reference to the correspondence quoted in the margin, copies of which accompanied your memorandum to my address, No. 72, dated 29th August 1872, to submit a "statement illustrative of the state of tea culture" in this district along with the following report.

2. I have done my utmost to get from all the plantations in the district the extra information called for by the Government of Bengal. In no case have I succeeded in eliciting all the information required, and in some cases no such information has been rendered at all.

By dint of a series of courteous reminders, I have obtained from all (but one or two) gardens the statements pretty fairly filled up. The particulars of those gardens from which no statements up to date have been received, I have given from my annual return for 1871. Several managers have failed to distinguish their teas, and I have in such cases supplied the omission by allowing the proportion of each class of tea given by the managers of other gardens. In column 17 I have entered a note against each garden, from which either the entire statement or the information required by columns 9 to 13 has not been received.

3. I proceed to refer *seriatim* to the points raised in the letter from the Government of Bengal.

4. Opinion is somewhat divided in regard to the age at which plucking should be commenced, and at what age the plant is mature. The planters who have replied to the questions seem to consider that no appreciable plucking can be commenced before the third year, and that the plant itself is mature about the fifth or sixth year.

In regard to plucking, not a little depends upon the object which the planter has in view. If his object is a speedy return, he will have planted closely and he will pluck early in the second year, perhaps in the first year. If he looks to making a garden, he will have planted more widely, and he will spare his plants, *only* plucking before the third year what may in his opinion be necessary to keep the plant from growing too high.

I know of at least two planters who consider that the tea bush does not become mature at an earlier age than from the eighth to the twelfth year, and I am of the same opinion. It is impossible, in the absence of precise information, to state the quantity of land in this district under plant between the age of first plucking and the mature age; but if the opinion I have given is correct, it may roughly be said that all but a fraction of the tea produced in this district is from plants between these two years.

5. I regret that it is quite impossible for me to answer with precision the inquiry put in regard to what land is fitted and meant for tea-planting, &c. I do not believe that the planters themselves, one and all, could give the requisite information. Those who are cautious are working gradually, fully intending to cover as much of the land at their disposal as the supply of labour will admit of their doing. I believe that for every acre planted nearly two acres may be put down as unfit for cultivation owing to bad soil, steepness, coolies' lines, &c. All forest is now conserved for charcoal purposes. I have received statements on the subject from some of the planters, and the list annexed will show what they themselves have returned.

6. I have the honor to annex a statement showing the tenures under which the tea lands of the district are held, but I have been unable to distinguish those which have been acquired from the former native holders.

7. Planters are pretty well agreed that a light soil easily penetrable by the tap root is the best for tea. If there is a good surface soil of vegetable mould, it is considered a valuable adjunct. In regard to climate, alternate moisture and heat are the best conditions for the production of leaf. Manure is but little used; and when used, it has not been found of use. I think for my own part that mere surface manure is of little use, but that liquid manure might prove advantageous. The description of plant most common is the China variety. The Assam plant would, I believe, be more cultivated were it not for the difficulty of getting good seed. No attempt has been of a purpose made to improve the China or hybrid plant; but the belief is that high cultivation has that effect.

8. Machinery for rolling and sifting tea has been introduced, and is being extended. The driving power is in most cases steam, but in two gardens to my knowledge wheels are worked by water power.

9. The labor question has not as yet become a serious one in this district. So long as the people of Eastern Nepaul have free access to the district, there ought to be no scarcity of laborers for the gardens in the hills at any rate. In the Terai there is some uneasiness being felt, lest the supply of labour, owing to the number of gardens being opened out, should fall short of the demand, and there is a pretty

general talk of getting up Dhangurs from Chota Nagpore. *Hitherto* the Terai gardens have got on with paharia and local labor. Bhooteahs and Lepchas are not employed as laborers anywhere. The wages of a laborer in this district are for a full month of 26 working days—

		Rs.
In the Hills ..	For a child	3
	For a woman	4-8
	For a man or strong woman ..	5-8

with a pice a day for each cooly as sirdari.

In the Terai the rate is 8 annas a head *less* all round.

My tea return for 1872 gives a total of 12,361 coolies for the district, the majority of whom are natives of Eastern Nepaul. The mortality in past years until 1872 had not been heavy. Last year cholera raged in some of the plantations; in other plantations it did not appear. I find every reason to fear, from returns I received, that nine per cent. of the entire number of coolies in the plantations died of cholera last year.

10. The obstacles to which reference is made in the letters I have received from the plantations are—

(*a.*) Difficulty of transport.

(*b.*) Retention by the Forest Department of land not required for forest purposes.

(*c.*) In the Terai the difficulty of getting healthy sites for cooly lines and managers' houses, owing to such sites being included within forest reserves.

The first difficulty will be removed when the railway to the foot of the hills is made; the other two difficulties do exist, and can only be met by a relaxation of existing rules. I do not think that Government would be a loser, whilst the Terai planters would be gainers, by permission being granted to the Deputy Commissioner of the district and the Deputy Conservator of Forests to dispose of all applications for building a cooly-line site within such limits, and subject to such conditions, as Government might lay down.

11. I believe that with the introduction of steam machinery and the extension of gardens, there will soon be a great difficulty in regard to wood for fuel, tea-boxes, and charcoal. I doubt if the present system of selling timber from the forest reserves will then be found to answer. It will perhaps be necessary to let out the forests under conditions, reserving certain trees and preventing waste.

12. I desire to state in conclusion that something perhaps might be done by the Government of India to get free passage for the teas of this district into Thibet. I believe that if this could in any way be done, a great step would be taken towards encouraging the Indian tea trade.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea Culture in the district of Darjeeling.

No.	Names of Proprietors.	Extent of Land. — Nature of Tenure. — Held in grant under old rules.	Held in fee-simple under new rules.	Held under cultivation leases or rent-paying pottahs.	Description of Land. — Total extent of land.	Cultivated.	Fit for tea but not planted.	Unfit for tea.	Total.
1	Darjeeling Company, Limited	7,901	...	646	8,547	Not given.			
2	Lebong Company, Limited	3,350	120	2,280	5,750	1,109	600	4,041	5,750
3	Tukvar Company, Limited	574	...	...	574	574	...	...	574
4	Soom Tea Company, Limited	...	1,252	...	1,252	403	250	599	1,252
5	Dr. Brougham (Dooteria)...	3,027	...	...	3,027	700	300	2,027	3,027
6	Land Mortgage Bank, Limited	...	1,750	...	1,750	500	800	450	1,750
7	Ditto ditto	...	1,150	...	1,150	250	750	150	1,150
8	Ditto ditto	...	1,200	...	1,200	250	800	150	1,200
9	Ditto ditto	...	258	...	258	250	...	8	258
10, 11	Ditto ditto ... ... / Ditto ditto	1,585	...	1,760	3,345	Not given.			
12	David Wilson, Esq.	...	...	210	210	Ditto.			
13	Estate C. H. Barnes	....	1,816	...	1,816	Ditto.			
14	Moonshee Torikoollah	278	....	...	278	Ditto.			
15	C. R. O'Donoghue, Esq.	...	...	300	300	Ditto.			
16	W. Lloyd, Esq.	...	...	520	520	Ditto.			
17	S. Mackintosh, Esq.	...	80	...	80	...	50	30	80
18	J. Stoelke, Esq.	19	...	26	45	25	...	20	45
19	Estate A. King	50	...	...	50	Not given.			
20	W. C. Taylor, Esq.	...	318	...	318	Ditto.			
21	John Taylor, Esq.	...	1,526	100	1,626	274	450	902	1,626
22	B. Dickenson, Esq.	...	700	...	700	Not given.			
23	John Stalkartt, Esq.	...	920	1,058	1,978	Ditto.			
24	J. Tweedie, Esq.	180	...	...	180	40	40	100	180
25	Messrs. Kennedy and Fleming	156	...	...	156	62	86	18	156
26	A. C. Ward, Esq.	50	...	...	50	5	30	15	50
27	F. J. Muller, Esq.	..	1,284	138	1,422	Not given.			
28	Estate C. H. Barnes	...	..	429	429	Ditto.			
29	Kursiong and Darjeeling Company, Limited	..	680	2,050	2,730	Ditto.			
30	Estate T. Stenhouse	228	...	...	228	Ditto.			
31	Sengell Tea Company, Limited	1,300	..	...	1,300	Ditto.			
32	Messrs. Partridge and Daniel	...	...	1,007	1,007	Ditto.			
33	Indian Tea Company, Limited	600	...	258	858	Ditto.			
34	Punchanoi Tea Association	...	...	130	130	Ditto.			
35	Punkabaree Tea Company, Limited ..	534	...	...	534	Ditto.			
36	Kalabarri Garden	...	...	244	244	Ditto.			
37	W. S. Paterson, Esq.	2,188	...	...	2,188	Ditto.			
38	H. M. Hancok, Esq.	...	...	60	60	Ditto.			
39	R. S. Wight, Esq.	...	...	138	138	70	68	...	138
40	Tollodhi Tea Association	...	4,452	1,171½	5,623½	Not given.			
41	Adulpore Tea Company, Limited ...	...	...	303	303	Ditto.			
42	Central Terai Tea Company, Limited ...	...	...	2,684	2,684	300	2,384	...	2,684
43	Messrs. Martin and Mandelli	...	...	644	644	185	100	359	644
44	Selim Tea Association, Limited... ...	...	2,039	...	2,039	600	100	1,339	2,039
45	Darjeeling Terai Tea Company, Limited	...	...	550	550	200	100	250	550
46	Darjeeling Terai Tea Association ...	...	...	413	413	250	100	63	413
47	Captain James Garden	...	...	281	281	80	..	201	281
48	R. Southby and Estate C. H. Barnes ...	...	...	234	234	100	134	...	234
49	Chumpta Tea Company, Limited ...	...	...	701	701	60	432	209	701
50	Balasun Tea Estate...	...	...	200	200	Not given.			
51	Holloway, Esq.	...	...	950	950	Ditto.			
52	Messrs. Wernicke	...	...	740	740	60	200	480	740
53	Messrs. Stocke and Sinclair	...	...	500	500	50	250	200	500
54	Indian Terai Tea Company, Limited ...	...	...	837	837	...	...	...	...
55	A. Mackenzie, Esq.	...	..	1,119	1,119	110	250	759	1,119
56	Colonel Briggs Garret and Jeare ...	...	...	177	177	68	109	...	177
57	Colonel W. Briggs	...	334	...	334	...	...	...	...
58	G. Kennedy and Company	..	804	...	804	...	...	...	...
59	New Terai Tea Association	...	...	3,250	3,250	400	1,700	1,150	3,250
60	Rupun Tea Association	...	...	83	83	...	...	...	...
61	Chongtong Tea Association	...	...	500	500	...	...	...	...
62	J. Holt, Esq.	...	...	326	326	...	...	...	...
63	G. Archer, Esq.	...	...	70	70	...	...	...	...
64	Dajea Garden	...	...	605	605	50	350	205	605
	Total	22,020	20,683	27,692½	70,395½	...	...	...	...

Dy. Commr.'s Office, Darjeeling,
The 27th February 1873.

E. W. Whinfield,
Offg. Dy. Commissioner.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea Culture

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				AREA IN ACRES.			
Province.	District.	NAMES OF PLANTATIONS.	Approximate average elevation.	Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.
BENGAL.	DARJEELING.	The Darjeeling Company, viz. Ging, Ambootia, Tukdah, and Phoobserung.	From 3,500 to 4,800	1,050	250	7,247	8,547
		The Lebong Company, Limited, viz. Tukvar, Badamtam, Little Badamtam, and Punkabarri.	2,500 to 3,800	910	147	4,693	5,750
		The Tukvar Tea Company, Limited, viz. Tukvar Garden.	4,000	376	25	173	574
		The Soom Tea Company, Limited ...	1,800 to 4,000	350	5	897	1,252
		The Dooteria Tea Estate	4,000	525	175	2,327	3,027
		The Land Mortgage Bank's Gardens, viz. Moondakotee, Nagvi Nahore, Dookdobo and Dajea; also	4,000	1,250	50	3,663	4,963
		Minchu, Mineral Spring, and Chongtong ...	3,750	670	Nil	2,675	3,345
		Mr. David Wilson's Garden	5,500	70	40	100	210
		Estate C. H. Barnes, Singtam	1,200	80	120	1,616	1,816
		Ditto ditto, Puttabong	4,700	Nil	80	349	429
		Moonshee Turrakolla's Garden	5,500	30	Nil	248	278
		Mr. C. R. O'Donoghue's Puttabong ...	4,000	35	95	170	300
		„ Lloyd's Garden, Lebong	3,000 to 5,000	160	80	280	520
		„ Mackintosh's Minchu	3,500	45	5	Nil	50
		„ Stoelke's Sternthal	5,500	16	14	„	30
		Estate A. King, Garden, Hope Town ...	4,000	50	Nil	„	50
		Mr. W. C. Taylor's Garden, ditto	4,000	40	10	268	318
		Margaret's Hope, Mr. J. Taylor's, Hope Town	4,000	220	20	1,386	1,626
		Mr. Dickinson's Rungmook	4,400	90	70	540	700
		„ Stalkartt's "Forlorn Hope"	4,000	61	117	1,800	1,978
		„ Tweedie's Pucheem	3,500	Nil	50	130	180
		„ Flemming's Lukia Moungh	5,000	10	50	96	156
		Mrs. Ward's "Bairn's Hope"	4,000	1½	3½	45	50
		Mrs. J. F. Muller's Garden Nagvi	3,500	20	10	1,392	1,422
		Kurseong and Darjeeling Company's Gardens, viz. Muckiebarree and Alloobarree.	4,000	690	Nil	2,040	2,730
		Spring side estate of the late T. Stenhouse...	4,500	150	50	28	228
		Sengell and Kurbia Gardens	4,000	1,000	Nil	300	1,300
		Teendarid	3,800	120	80	807	1,007
		Kurseong and Terai Tea Co.'s Gardens, viz. Castleton and Morapore	4,000 & 800	400	120	338	858
		Punchoi, Mattigora and Roopun	506	128	105	40	273
		Punkabarri Tea Co.'s Gardens	1,200	130	Nil	404	534
		Kalabarri	1,000	50	50	144	244
		Mohurgong (Paterson Bertelsen)	500	120	50	2,018	2,188
		Ruprrail and Chumpta (R. S. Wight) ...	500	110	20	709	839
		Follodhi Garden (Tea)	1,000	135	Nil	5,488½	5,623½
		Adulpore „ „	300	75	25	203	303
		Central Terai and Tarabarri	800	150	210	2,501	2,861
		Bisemaree and Munjah (Mareddli and Martin)	800	61	119	464	640
		Selim Tea Association's Garden	1,750	500	127	1,412	2,039
		Darjeeling Terai Tea Co.'s Garden	800	125	75	350	550
		Terai Tea Association	800	100	100	213	413
		Captain James's Ruttoudong	800	50	30	201	281
		Southby and estates C. H. Barnes	500	Nil	100	134	234
		Balasun Tea estate (Mr. Thomas)	1,000	„	100	100	200
		Mr. Holloway's Tenhohara	500	„	150	800	950
		Sugia—Messrs. Wornicke	4,000	„	60	680	740
		Rishehot—Messrs. Stoelke and Sinclair ...	4,500	„	50	450	500
		Chenga—Indian Terai Tea Co.	750	„	220	617	837
		Norbong—Mr. Mackenzie	2,000	„	110	1,009	1,119
		Gielle Tea Association's Gardens	3,000	„	100	234	334
		Messrs. Kennedy's Garden	3,000	„	200	604	804
		New Terai Tea Association, Manager R. Haughton.	900	„	400	2,850	3,250
		Chongtong Tea Association's Garden... ...	4,050	„	40	460	500
		Mr. Holt's Garden—Mahalderam	4,000	2	200	124	326
		Mr. Archer's "Thealand"	5,000	Nil	40	30	70
		Grand Total	......	10,155½	4,347½	55,847½	70,350½

DY. COMMR.'S OFFICE, DARJEELING,
The 31*st January* 1873.

in the district of Darjeeling in 1872.

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS.						Average yield in lb per acre of mature plants.	REMARKS.
Black Tea.				*Green Tea.*			
Pekoe.	Pekoe Sou-chong and Souchong.	Fannings and Broken Tea, &c.	Total.	None made in this district, or *very little.*	Grand total.		
226,000	180,000	65,325	471,325	Nil	471,325	448B	The details required for columns 9 to 13 have not been given by the gardens marked B.
163,000	129,040	47,560	339,600	,,	339,600	373B	
84,712	67,064	24,704	176,480	,,	176,480	469B	
17,288	19,442	45,650	82,380	,,	82,380	235	
73,330	55,696	19,360	148,386	,,	148,386	282	
89,000	49,000	33,000	171,000	,,	171,000	136	
92,000	71,000	16,680	179,680	,,	179,680	268	
7,635	9,000	12,000	28,635	,,	28,635	409B	
8,102	10,790	13,054	31,946	,,	31,946	399	
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	,,	Nil	...	
2,995	2,371	874	6,240	,,	6,240	208	
6,500	4,200	1,460	12,160	,,	12,160	347	
19,680	15,580	5,740	41,000	,,	41,000	256B	
1,040	4,320	817	6,177	,,	6,177	137	
560	960	400	1,920	,,	1,920	120	
2,419	1,915	706	5,040	,,	5,040	100	
3,000	1,960	Nil	4,960	,,	4,960	124	
44,640	8,880	8,480	62,000	,,	62,000	281	
12,160	8,800	640	21,600	,,	21,600	240	
25,574	20,246	7,460	53,280	,,	53,280	873B	
210	600	Nil	810	,,	810	...	
720	720	36	1,476	,,	1,476	147½	
108	104	4	216	,,	216	144	
3,000	1,800	Nil	4,800	,,	4,800	240B	
25,840	49,440	44,720	120,000	,,	120,000	173	
28,800	22,800	9,200	60,800	,,	60,800	405B	
141,120	125,440	47,040	313,600	,,	313,600	313B	
16,560	14,720	5,520	36,800	,,	36,800	306	
9,069	7,180	2,646	18,895	,,	18,895	47B	
5,760	34,360	23,200	63,320	,,	63,320	494	
22,068	19,616	7,356	49,040	,,	49,040	377B	
13,320	11,840	4,440	29,600	,,	26,600	592B	
10,400	27,700	13,000	51,100	,,	51,100	425	
4,800	9,600	7,200	21,600	,,	21,600	196	
14,000	17,000	2,780	33,780	,,	33,780	250	
9,000	1,700	10,000	36,000	,,	36,000	480	
4,000	8,000	5,600	17,600	,,	17,600	117	
9,040	14,220	12,740	36,000	,,	36,000	590	
51,840	41,040	15,120	108,000	,,	108,000	211	
16,000	20,000	4,000	40,000	,,	40,000	320	
14,400	11,520	22,080	48,000	,,	48,000	480	
5,040	4,480	1,680	11,200	,,	11,200	224	
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	,,	Nil	......	
,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	......	
3,000	3,500	420	6,920	,,	6,920	......	
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	,,	Nil	......	
,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	......	
,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	......	
,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	......	
,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	......	
,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	......	
,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	......	
,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	......	
560	,,	,,	560	,,	560	280	
Nil	,,	,,	Nil	,,	Nil	......	
1,288,290	1,122,944	542,692	2,953,926		2,953,926	......	

B. W. MORTON, *Dy. Commissioner.*
E. W. WHINFIELD, *Offg. Dy. Commissioner.*

No. 137C, dated Gowalparah, the 5th October 1872.

From—Lieut.-Col. A. K. Comber, Deputy Commissioner of Gowalparah,
To—The Offg. Commissioner of Cooch Behar Division, Julpigoree.

With reference to your office circular No. 72, dated the 29th August last, I have the honor to send herewith the statement of tea culture in this district, duly filled up according to the instructions in the Government letter.

2. The occupation of tea cultivation in this district first began in 1860, and within the course of six years twenty-five gardens were established; but owing to the difficulties of obtaining labour, and also to the soil selected for most of the gardens being unfavorable for the purposes, the planters have gradually abandoned their endeavours, and the number of the gardens have now dwindled down to three. All these plantations (except two by one Mr. Mint, but managed by a native manager,) were started by natives on a very small scale. None of the gardens now in existence can be said to be in a prosperous condition.

3. I shall now endeavour to give the particulars of the three gardens required by the Government.

4. These plantations are situated on the land of the Meechparah zemindar, on small elevated hills, which were formerly covered with jungle and reckoned as waste. The zemindar gave the land to the planters on the supposition, I believe, that when they are brought into cultivation he would fix some rental, but has not yet claimed any assessment, perceiving the discouragement of the planters both in regard to the disadvantages of the localities as well as to the difficulties in procuring labor.

The soil and climate of this district are not well favorable to tea culture.. Manure was not applied to any garden to improve the productive powers of the land. The tea-plants are all of the hybrid kind. No attempts, it seems to me, have been made to improve its character.

No machinery was introduced here for manufacture of tea, the operation being on such a very small scale.

There are altogether 45 coolies employed in the three gardens, of whom two only are natives of the North-Western Provinces, and are paid at Rs. 5 per month. The remaining 42 are men of adjacent villages. Of these 17 men were engaged on advances of Rs. 8 per annum, exclusive of food, and 25 from 1⅓ to Rs. 5, according to ages of the coolies. The coolies here are not subject to the Cooly Emigration Act. The average remuneration of each laborer is Rs. 2-13-8.

From the above it will be seen that tea operations in this district are not such as to demand much notice; and it appears that the few tea gardens that do exist are not worked with anything approaching to energy, the greatest yield being only 1 maund per acre, and the lowest only 24lb, while most ordinary gardens in Assam yield 3 maunds and upwards per acre, and some considerably more than 3 maunds I believe. Apart from the soil and climate being less favorable to the production of tea than it is in Upper and Central Assam, the lands are mostly zemindary, and it is believed that the zemindars do not encourage the settlement of European planters, and the natives do not venture on anything but a very small scale of operations.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea Culture in India in 1872.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Area in Acres.				Approximate yield in 1872 in ℔ Avoirdupois.					
							Black.					
Province.	District.	Name of plantation.	Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Tota .	Pekoe.	Souchong.	Bohi.	Total.	Grand total.	Average yield in ℔ per acre of mature plant.
Cooch Behar	Gowalparah	1 Bolodmaree	33	25	17	75	960	400	240	1,600	1,600	48
		2 Ditto...	2	1	3	6	100	40	20	160	160	80
		3 Jeenaree...	10	...	90	100	240	...	...	240	240	24

Note.—At the age of five years of plants tea-plucking begins.

The full bearing age is not known to planters, therefore the produce between these two ages cannot be furnished. About 12,500lb of tea were produced from the mature plants of the above gardens.

Of the 110 acres entered in column 7, seven acres only, in garden No. 3, are culturable, and the remainder unculturable.

Gowalparah,
The 5th October 1872.

A. K. Comber, *Lieut.-Col.*,
Deputy Commissioner.

No. 114, dated Tura, the 17th September 1872.

From—Captain W. J. Williamson, Deputy Commissioner of Garo Hills,
To—The Offg. Commissioner of the Cooch Behar Division.

With reference to your memorandum No. 72 of the 29th August 1872, received yesterday, forwarding the orders of the Governments of India and Bengal on the subject of tea cultivation, I have the honor to state that there is no tea grown in this district, there are no gardens, and no tea-planters. Before, however, I left for England (in 1870,) I laid down a few Assam seeds, and have now a few good plants, which would have thrived much better had my successors paid any attention to them. Notwithstanding they were wholly neglected while I was away, they are now strong and healthy, as I have carefully looked after them since my return. They are few in number, and will, I hope, be fine plants in a couple of years after they have been well pruned. I have manufactured a little tea from them of fair quality but very small quantity, and the trees have this year yielded a good supply of seed, which I shall lay down. Tea does fairly in these hills, but it will never thrive here nearly as well as in Assam, for the weather from October till April is too dry; but I dare say if the demand for tea increased greatly, while the supply of available tea-growing land decreased, as it rapidly would, these hills might become then a field for the cultivation of the shrub, but at present they cannot compete with the Assam Valley or other well known localities.

No. 147, dated Gowhatty, the 28th April 1873.

From—COLONEL HENRY HOPKINSON, Governor-General's Agent, North-Eastern Frontier, and Commissioner of Assam,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.

I HAVE now the honor to reply to your letter No. 3634 of the 16th August last, and to submit the following report illustrative of the state of tea culture in Assam. I have for easier reference noticed each point referred to in paragraph 3 of your letter, in the order in which it is therein placed.

A.—THE TENURES ON WHICH LANDS IN THE DIVISION INTENDED FOR TEA-PLANTING ARE HELD.

These are of the following descriptions :—

I.—Those held under the rules for the grant of waste lands in Assam, sanctioned in letter No. 497, dated 6th March 1838, from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Officiating Secretary to the Sudder Board of Revenue, and received in this office with Board's letter No. 10, dated 17th April 1838,—*vide* Appendix A.

II.—Those held under the rules of the 23rd October 1854, commonly called the old rules,—*vide* Appendix B.

III.—Those held under the resolution of the Government of India, Home Department, dated 17th October 1861, published in the Supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 19th idem, and known as Lord Canning's Resolution (Appendix C*).

* Not reprinted.

IV.—Those held under the rules published in Chapter XXVI of the Board's Manual.

V.—Those held under ordinary rent-paying pottahs,—*vide* rules for the conduct of settlement proceedings in Assam, sanctioned by Government order No. 4043, dated 19th October 1870.

VI.—Chamua tenures.

A chamuadar differs from an ordinary Government tenant only because he has the privilege of paying his revenue direct into the Collectorate; chamua lands are assessed at the full ordinary rates prevailing in the province.

VII.—Nankur tenures.

These estates pay half the current rates of revenue, and their holders enjoy the privilege of paying their rent direct into the Collectorate.

The following statement shows the areas of land held by tea-planters in the districts of Assam under the different tenures of which a description has already been given.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Names of districts.	I.—Under the rules dated 6th March 1838.	II.—Under the rules dated 23rd October 1854.	III.—Under Lord Canning's resolution dated 17th October 1861.	IV.—Under the rules contained in Chapter XXVI of the Board's Manual.	V.—Under rent-paying Government pottahs.	VI.—Chamua tenures.	VII.—Nankur tenures.	Lands acquired by tea planters from native holders, and nature of their tenure.	TOTAL.
				Including redeemed old rule grants.					
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.			Acres.	Acres.
Kamroop ...	......	16.147	......	4.563	1.542	......	......	......	22,252
Durrung ...	......	3,650	......	35,038	3,728	343	6,183	6,500	48,942 Excluding entry in column 11, and a few small out gardens held by residents of Gowhatty.
Nowgong ...	......	2,556	......	15,070	352	......	......	......	17,978
Seebsaugor ...	5,484	52,769	......	78,592	4,648	......	......	Information not yet furnished.	1,41,493
Luckimpore ...	......	55,152	15,004	55,657	8,512	......	......	......	1,34,325
Total ...	5,484	1,30,274	15,004	1,88,920	18,782	343	6,183	6,500	3,64,990

REMARKS.

Durrung, Column 9.—About 6,500 acres of nankur land are held by planters, of which 317 acres are occupied in return for payment of reven nankurdar at the prevailing rates, and the remainder consists of land purchased from nankurdars, with whom it was settled for 20 years in 1860 at half the thei ing rates.

Golaghat Sub-Division.—Captain Blathwayt writes:—"To the best of my belief no land has been acquired from native holders."

Luckimpore.—The Deputy Commissioner makes the following remarks with reference to column 11:—"It is difficult to say what amount of land may have been obtained from native holders, as planters only could supply such information; but at all events the amount is nominal, and the land so acquired would be held on ordinary cultivation lease, the present lease-holders having only really purchased the former leaseholders' rig under the pottah, which is simply the right to occupy and cultivate subject to the payment of the revenue demand; and no land in this district for tea, or indeed r any other cultivation, is held, or has b n acquired from natives n any other tenure."

B.—Facts connected with Cultivation.

(a.) *Conditions of soil and climate most favourable to the growth of the tea-plant.*

Kamroop.

Major W. J. Lance, Officiating Deputy Commissioner.—"Opinion appears to differ, as is to be expected, in some respects as to the conditions under which tea best thrives; in some cases high lands, and in others low lands, being preferred. Tea is cultivated both on small hillocks (called teelas in Assam) and in the terai plain of the district. Both are equally good in their way, though with reference to the first an additional question of aspect has to be considered, which is wanting in the case of low lands. As to what aspect is best, general experience seems to point in this district to north and easterly ones; it being maintained that the south and west, being more exposed to the sun, the soil in this hot climate fails to retain its moisture sufficiently for the plant. It is evident, however, that the effects of aspect are liable to be influenced to a degree by the other points of soil, rainfall, and slope of hills. Teelas, &c., are further subject to a heavier rush of water than level low lands—an inconvenience which has to be guarded against by terracing, &c., and which, if the slope be considerable, is certainly a drawback as regards teelas compared with low lands. In both cases (teelas and low lands) the usual conditions of heat and moisture are equally demanded by the plants; whilst as to soil, the rich dark soil, the produce of ages of decaying vegetation, seems to be that in which the plant thrives best, though very good tea is produced from parts where nothing but stiff clay is to be found. Forest land is usually preferred to that consisting of merely grass jungle, owing to the shade, which may be obtained in the former case by leaving a proportion of the trees to protect the ground, and so make it retain its moisture. In cases where low land is selected, it is essential that it admit of proper and easy drainage, as without this the land suffers from the retained moisture."

Durrung.

Major Graham, Deputy Commissioner.—"A red sandy subsoil covered with vegetable matter is found to be best adapted for tea."

Captain M. O. Boyd, Assistant Commissioner, Mungledye Sub-Division.—"The lands most favourable for tea cultivation in this sub-division are the high lands in the neighbourhood of the frontier and the small plateaus formed by the action of the rivers which run southward into the Brahmapootra."

Nowgong.

Mr. T. W. Greaves, Manager, Upper Assam Tea Company.—"Tea only does well here in close proximity to the hills. As a district, Nowgong may be said to be low, flat, and badly drained; whilst the soil is too black in color, and too stiff in consistency, to be well adapted for tea. But on approaching the hills these objections disappear, and both soil, drainage, and climate, improve vastly: so much

so, that I believe the land we have at the foot of the hills is not easily to be surpassed in Assam."

SEEBSAUGOR.

Mr. S. E. Peal, Sapakattee.—"Turning from a consideration of the questions of 'labour' and 'land,' that immediately interest me as a tea-planter, I would respectfully beg to draw attention to other and more general matters that are of far more interest to Government, and deserve more careful attention than has been hitherto bestowed on them. I allude to the necessity of at once investigating the climate essential for the growth of tea, not as a curiosity, or as an industry missed on year after year, by Government assistance, but such as will enable it to become naturally the 'important national enterprise' such as His Excellency indicates.

"As a knowledge of the requirements of the tea tree is becoming extended, it is gradually becoming apparent that while tea will actually grow or vegetate in almost any climate out of the Arctic, so it seems equally clear that an ever-green shrub which is cropped so often and systematically of its foliage, needs a climate throughout the year that is both hot and moist, and that contains *par excellence* the essentials for rapid and sustained growth; and that in direct proportion as the climate is subject to (even partial) droughts or comes within the influence of hot or dry winds, in the same proportion it is directly unsuitable for the growth of tea as a 'national enterprise' which is to succeed by the weight and rapidity of its crops of young leaf.

"Many parts of India, Central, Southern, and North-West Provinces, present for a portion of the year the climatic conditions necessary, and which are best found in Assam and Cachar, and perhaps the Darjeeling Terai; but, unlike these latter, the favorable period is so short that there could hardly be said to be a 'tea season' at all.

"An investigation of the number of flushes, or rapidity of growth, would be a direct and certain mode of ascertaining the suitability or otherwise of a province for tea growing, and the tracts showing this will be found to be almost exclusively those whereon there is a steady monthly average rainfall with suitable warmth.

"In many parts of India the rainfall for the year is the same as in Assam, but it falls in a few months, and is preceded and followed by droughts; and it is needless to say that when a continuously hot and *moist* atmosphere is essential, that those places are unsuited. It is most noteworthy also that only in those places having a hot moist atmosphere for greater part of the year, is tea to be found indigenous."

GOLAGHAT.

Captain Blathwayt, Assistant Commissioner.—"It seems very generally agreed that the climate of Upper Assam is as good for tea as can be found anywhere. Colonel Money says: 'The climate of the northern portions is perfect, and for climate I accord the first place to Northern Assam; and Mr. Watson, who obtained the second prize for his essay on tea cultivation, gives it as his opinion that Assam and Cachar are the only two climates suited for tea: and that this climate is excellent for the purpose, is the opinion of all planters I have consulted on the subject.

"The general idea appears to be that a great variety of soils are suitable for the growth of tea, provided it is not too loose, and, on the other hand, that it is sufficiently porous to prevent water stagnating about the roots of the plants."

Mr. George Stocks, Manager, Brahmapootra Company.—"The soil best suited for tea in my opinion is slightly undulating, with falls of from 6 to 8 feet of a strong nature and moderately intermixed with sand. This is to be found on all old forest land, and the rich vegetable mould found in deposit on the surface, when cleared, is a very great help to the growth of the tea plant.

"I have not seen tea-planting in any other district in Assam, but feel confident that the climate of this province is well suited for tea."

Mr. T. Kingsley, Manager, New Golaghat Tea Company.—"This would hardly be the place to enter into any disquisition on the conditions of soil and climate under which tea is believed to thrive best; such a question and kindred ones will be found treated of in hand-books and essays on tea-planting: and any consideration of such matters here would only be a wilful turning aside from the invitation of the Governor-General in Council to planters in tea districts to state what (if any) obstacles exist to the fullest development of this important branch of production, and what (if any) measures could properly be adopted by Government in view to facilitating this object."

JOREHAUT.

Mr. Carnegy, Assistant Commissioner.—"Tea is grown on many descriptions of soil, where the ground is high enough to be above inundation, but it undoubtedly thrives best on a light yellowish loam resting on a sandy subsoil; the soil ought to be virgin, also either naturally or artificially drained. As to climate, the warmer and damper it is, the better for tea. In this sub-division there is but little difference in any one part from the rest in climate, so that the different gardens are on a par in that respect. The best weather for tea is when heavy showers fall during the night and the days are hot and close."

LUCKIMPORE.

Major W. C. Clarke, Deputy Commissioner.—"The conditions of soil and climate under which tea has been found to thrive most are stated to be a loose rich loam with a good mixture of sand, described by some as a friable loam, and by others a sandy loam,—a hot damp climate with regular rainfall of say 90 to 100 inches, alternating with hot bright sunshine. The soil and climate which produce vast bamboo forests are also stated to be excellent for tea, and I am of opinion that such land is becoming more in demand."

(*b.*) *The extent to which manure has been used, and the general results of its application.*

KAMROOP.

Major W. J. Lance, Officiating Deputy Commissioner.—"Manure has not been tried in this district to any great extent, and the experiments appear to have been empirical rather than otherwise.

Sulphate of ammonia and phosphate of lime, as also charcoal mixed with cow-dung, have been tried,—the former with better effect than the latter. Guano does not appear to have been tried in any cases, though probably it is one of the best manures yet experimented with. Some of the planters have tried manure under circumstances which seemed indicated to them on the supposition that rain and the moisture in the ground were the means by which the fertilizing properties of the manure were conveyed to the plants; but the theory is a most questionable one, if not actually decisively proved to be erroneous, as experiments would seem to show that the earth almost immediately absorbs the principal ingredients required for the nutrition of plants, from the water holding the manure in solution, and then of itself supplies directly the necessary constituents for the growth of the plant. Certain (but of course not all) cases, therefore, where manure has been thought to fail simply from excess of rain, &c., may have been fairly attributable to fault in the manure. As manure beyond that obtained from the decayed weeds hoed from the ground, and which are always lying ready to hand, is not generally to be got near the garden, and the cost and difficulties of transport are to be taken into consideration, ammoniacal manures, such as have already been alluded to, can hardly be used except by gardens within a moderate distance of the Brahmapootra; and even then the ammonia being one of the main constituents, they are liable to serious deterioration on the road in such a climate as this. What is wanted is an appropriate manure, easily got and of inexpensive character. This has not yet been obtained, but once found the produce of the tea plant will be increased probably 20 per cent.

"Thyme contains a large proportion of nitrogen, and therefore such manures as are rich in that substance would be indicated at the same time; and if the analysis for certain tea soils in China is to be taken as any criterion, silex is found to be a general constituent of the best tea lands to an extent of nearly 80 per cent., a point to be borne in mind when treating the land with manure."

Durrung.

Captain M. O. Boyd, Assistant Commissioner, Mungledye.—"The use of manure is not common; cow-dung has been tried with various results on a few acres of land, but it cannot be obtained in sufficient quantities to admit of a satisfactory experiment on a large scale being made; night-soil is considered the best manure, but the prejudices of the coolies prevent its use."

Nowgong.

Mr. T. W. Greaves, Manager, Upper Assam Tea Company.—"I have applied only cow-dung, both fresh and in every stage of decomposition, with very considerable success. I think its application is calculated to increase the yield of any garden."

Seebsaugor.

Major A. E. Campbell, Deputy Commissioner.—"Manure is not much used owing, I imagine, to its great expense; but I have never heard two opinions expressed as to the advantage of manuring."

Golaghat.

Captain Blathwayt, Assistant Commissioner.—" Concerning the advantages of manure opinions are much at variance, and no experiments worthy the name appear to have been made in this sub-division. Ashes and burnt earth have been successfully employed on some gardens, but with the object of *lightening* the soil rather than manuring.

" It seems probable, however, that the manure available, which is chiefly dung of lean Assamese cattle, could not be of any great benefit unless used in very large quantities, which, even if procurable, would of course add very materially to the cost of working a garden. Mr. Elliot, the Mysore planter, states that having consulted a well-known chemist (Mr. Dupri), he learnt that 1,000℔ of the dung of English grass-fed cattle contain but 4℔ of nitrogen, 3℔ of phosphoric acid, and 4℔ of lime, and that the cow dung of India is greatly poorer."

Mr. George Stocks, Manager, Brahmapootra Tea Company.—" Manure, as a help to tea, I have no doubt is good; but having used it on a very limited scale, I am not in a position to give an opinion."

Jorehaut.

Mr. Carnegy, Assistant Commissioner.—" Manure has been hitherto but little used, and then generally it has been applied to backward patches of garden, where from poorness of soil or some other cause the plants were weakly. I have in several gardens seen small experimental pieces of tea which had been highly manured, and from which the produce was great; but, as before remarked, manuring has not been generally introduced, and there is much difference of opinion as to what manure is suited for tea, or how it ought to be applied. But its benefit is admitted, and soon it will probably be in general use."

Luckimpore.

Major W. Clarke, Deputy Commissioner.—" Manure has been used to some extent. The kinds I have known to be used are leaf manure from the large wood forests, saltpetre (used by the Dehing Company experimentally in 1871), and cow and other animal manure from elephant stables, and the like. These have all been used, it is stated, with good results, and the use of manure is extending. Where the soil and climate are very good, planters seem careless in this apparently important matter at present."

(c.) Description of plant most common in the division—(1) *whether China, or* (2) *indigenous, or* (3) *hybrid.*—*(d.) Whether any successful attempts have been made improve the character of the two first descriptions.*

Kamroop.

Major W. J. Lance, Officiating Deputy Commissioner.—" The plants in this district are—(1) China, (2) Assam, and (3) hybrid. The improvement of the plant does not appear to have engaged the attention of the cultivators in this district to any great degree. In fact, where a large area of plant is already in existence, I hardly

think it is likely that much will be done in this direction; increased profit being looked for rather from simple increased growth of the plant as it exists, than from any attempt to obtain superiority in quality. Actual improvement in the plant itself must be a work of time, and is likely only to be undertaken in gardens where commercial profits are not the only end sought to be attained. In such cases some selected acres might perhaps be taken up, the plants experimented on, and the seed of such plants used to produce improved varieties of plant. At present it is not universally settled what the actual properties are which are required in a tea-plant. Then, again, matters are unfortunately influenced by the arbitrary decision of home brokers, &c., who deal with tea from a merely commercial point of view, and decide on the goodness or otherwise of tea with reference to the particular use that can be made of it, for the necessities of the market as it at present exists, making no account of the inherent goodness of any particular sort of plant as such plant. They principally desire the strength of the Assam tea to give body to the weaker description of China produce, as far as I have ever had means to judge. They offer no particular inducement for any actual higher culture of the plant itself, such as has produced the present high-flavoured English fruits from the original wild and inferior stocks. As an instance of the result of this conventionality in the brokers' decisions on teas, it may be pointed out that one objection to rolling tea by machinery is that it expresses much of the tea sap, which in turn discolors the Pekoe tips; and as the light grey tinge given by the buds is then wanting, the tea is set down as of inferior value, though not a bud less is found in the article.

"Assam tea, I believe, to labor under this disadvantage, that it is not brought sufficiently forward on the strength of its own qualities to compete for fuller favour with China teas, and that therefore the planters have no sufficiently decided standard of the qualities to be sought for and admitted to be desirable according to the taste of those who drink it."

Durrung.

Major Graham, Deputy Commissioner.—"The description generally cultivated is a hybrid Assam."

Mungledye.

Captain Boyd, Assistant Commissioner.—"The hybrid species of plant predominates, but the indigenous plant is the most esteemed for the quality and quantity of its produce; it is not, however, as hardy as the China. I do not think that any planter would cultivate the China plant from preference. I do not hear of any successful attempt having been made to improve either of the species."

Nowgong.

Mr. T. W. Greaves, Manager, Upper Assam Tea Company.—"I do not conceive a tea bush to be susceptible of improvement in point of *jat*. Hard treatment, whether in pruning, plucking, or general neglect of cultivation, will no doubt cause a deterioration in the character of any garden; so much so that a fair hybrid property might degenerate into China, and in such a case it is no doubt possible to restore a

garden to its former character, but not to take it beyond the point at which it originally started."

SEEBSAUGOR.

Major A. E. Campbell, Deputy Commissioner.—"The description of plant most in use in this district is the hybrid. Nowhere is the China variety now planted, and where it was planted some years ago, it will gradually be allowed to die out."

GOLAGHAT.

Captain Blathwayt, Assistant Commissioner.—"The most common description of plant is hybrid, but there is a good deal of indigenous and, on the older gardens, of China plant. The seed of the latter is now, however, rarely used, and I have not heard of any attempts having been made to improve it."

Mr. George Stocks, Manager, Brahmapootra Company.—"The description of plant in all the gardens of this company is chiefly hybrid, with Assam and China intermixed. The China plant proved such a small leaf-producer that it has been entirely put aside; I have not heard of any instances of its being improved."

Mr. Kingsley, Manager, New Golaghat Tea Company.—"I have tea of the following kinds in my gardens,—(1) Assam from indigenous seed, (2) hybrid, (3) China. The seed from this is not now used."

JOREHAUT.

Mr. Carnegy, Assistant Commissioner.—"The description of plant most common in the district is hybrid, after this comes China, and then pure indigenous Assam. So far as I know, no attempt has been made to improve pure China or Assam plants. The former indeed are being eradicated as much as possible, and no one hereabout would think of buying China seed, or that of a hybrid nearly approaching China in quality; consequently China plants will disappear altogether when those now in the ground have died out. Pure Assam plant does not seed freely; and besides for all but the very best soils I believe high class hybrid plant is preferred to it, as being more hardy."

LUCKIMPORE.

Major W. C. Clarke, Deputy Commissioner.—"From the information furnished, and from my own experience, I find that the description of plant most common in this district is the hybrid. Nothing seems to have been done, if ever attempted, to improve the China and indigenous kinds. The latter of these is a very delicate plant, and not in favor at all among planters."

NORTH LUCKIMPORE.

Captain A. N. Phillips, Assistant Commissioner.—"I believe the hybrid plant to be the most common variety in all the gardens, and that more or less success has attended attempts to improve the character of the indigenous plant, though not, I believe, the China species."

C.—Manufacture.

Extent to which machinery has been introduced into the various manufacturing processes, and with what success.

Kamroop.

Major W. J. Lance, Officiating Deputy Commissioner.—" Only one garden in this district has used machinery, and with but moderate success; for whilst it undoubtedly saves manual labor to a great extent, the result as regards the tea so dealt with is found to be unsatisfactory. It is imperfectly rolled, much broken, and deprived of a considerable quantity of its sap; whilst the latter, discoloring the Pekoe tips, deprives it in the estimation of the broker of a great deal of its commercial value, though actually the quality of the tea is in no way prejudiced. It is not likely that machinery will ever supersede the hand in the sifting, or even rolling, of tea. It would be extremely difficult, for instance, to separate the Pekoe bud from the leaf when required; and the delicate manipulation attainable in the rolling process by the human hand, which adapts itself to the varying circumstances of the bundle of leaves submitted to it in ever-changing form, could hardly be adequately supplemented by any machine, which from its very nature must act in a regular series of appointed motions. Again, machinery when worked by steam is comparatively expensive, and such must be confined to gardens of considerable size and yielding good returns. Many gardens, however, possess motive power of other descriptions which might be economically made use of if thoroughly efficient machines were to be had."

Durrung.

Major Graham, Deputy Commissioner.—" There are now five engines used in leaf-rolling in the head-quarters division, and I understand the number is likely to be increased."

Mungledye.

Captain M. O. Boyd, Assistant Commissioner.—" The only planter who has used machinery is Mr. Severin of Gronland. He writes:— " One of Kinmond's four-plate rolling machines, driven by a six-horse power steam engine, has been in use here in Gronland for the last three years. When labor is scarce it is valuable, but when plentiful I prefer hand-rolling. A fanning and sorting machine has also been in use for three years; it is chiefly used to separate the fannings and light tea from the better sorts, and is for that purpose very valuable."

Nowgong.

Major J. F. Sherer, Deputy Commissioner.—" No machinery appears to have been yet introduced or used in the manufacture of tea in this district; but Mr. Herriot, the manager of the Sokunbaree tea estate, purposes introducing machinery in the garden this cold season."

Seebsaugor.

No information given.

Golaghat.

Captain Blathwayt, Assistant Commissioner.—"The steam engine has been introduced on three estates in this sub-division, and used in rolling, and to a limited extent in sorting; and though capable of considerable improvement, appears to have given satisfaction to those using it."

Mr. George Stocks, Manager, Brahmapootra Tea Company.—"Machinery has been introduced into the manufacturing process with great success; it is also used in sorting the teas into the different classes, but on a very limited scale. There are now three different kinds of rolling machines at work in the district, all patented, and I heard lately that another was about to be tried. The benefit derived from the introduction of machinery cannot be too highly praised; but the natives do not appear to like it, as a rolling machine takes a longer time to get through a certain quantity of leaf than the usual number of men without it; however, I dare say this will be put to rights when the machinery is improved upon."

Jorehaut.

Mr. Carnegy, Assistant Commissioner.—"In manufacture many improvements have been made of late as far as the introduction of machinery goes, particularly in effecting saving of labor in leaf-rolling. Almost every large garden now has a leaf-rolling machine worked by steam, and one planter has recently invented a new rolling machine which is said by those who have seen it to be an improvement upon those now out. The same gentleman has also introduced a machine, worked by steam, for sifting and sorting manufactured teas."

Luckimpore.

Major W. C. Clarke, Deputy Commissioner.—"Rolling and winnowing machines are used in several factories, but in this district there are many factories yet in which machinery is not used. The use of machinery is still in its infancy: so far as it has been used it has been very successful."

North Luckimpore.

Captain A. N. Phillips, Assistant Commissioner.—"Kimmond's rolling machine in the Joying tea garden forms the one solitary instance of the introduction of machinery into the tea gardens of North Luckimpore. It is said to have proved a success, and to have economised labor."

D.—Labor.

(*a*.) *Past history and present aspect of the labor question.*

(*b*.) *Class and description of laborers who work in the gardens of each district, distinguishing indigenous from imported laborers in the districts to which the Emigration Acts have been extended, and the districts or provinces from which the imported laborers come.*

(*c*.) *Whether laborers who have not been imported under any special law are residents of the immediate neighbourhood of the gardens, or whether they have gone to them from a distance, influenced by the prospect of getting work.*

(*d*.) *Result of the system of recruiting by garden-sirdars legalized by Act II (B. L. C.) of 1870.*

Kamroop.

Major W. J. Lance, Officiating Deputy Commissioner.—"The planting is carried on here principally by local labor obtained on the spot and from the neighbouring district of Durrung, with a very few imported laborers and some time-expired men.

"*Labor was formerly difficult to procure in the district, but the increased assessment of 1868-69 had the result of improving the tea planter's position in this respect, by compelling the ryot to exert himself to a greater degree than previously, and now the supply* probably meets all usual demand.

"The laborers from Durrung, and those near here, are usually Cacharies; the few imported are Bengalees.

"The system of recruiting by garden sirdars does not obtain in this district."

Durrung.

Major Graham, Deputy Commissioner.—"The next point noted by the planters who have favored me with their observations is as regards the labor supply. They state, first, that the laborers sent up are often of a class that should never have been sent; but here, further than beyond seeing that laborers are not sent up merely to die, I do not know that the matter is one which calls for Government interference. The matter is in the hands of the planters themselves, or those whom they serve; and if my information be correct, it sometimes happens that in the engagement of coolies, 'cheap and nasty' is the order of the day. In this matter it appears to me that the planters would wish Government to protect them against their own *employés* or agents, a somewhat invidious position, and as thankless an operation as interfering between man and wife. Paying a full day's wages to coolies in hospital is also objected to, as giving rise to malingering; and it is urged that something should be left to the discretion of the officers in medical charge. It may be so, but I am hardly prepared to advocate this, and believe that it might lead to abuse. If a medical officer can keep a man out of hospital whom he may consider is malingering, it is about as much as should be done. A committee consisting of five managers of gardens have recommended that there should be a Native Doctor or dresser on every garden containing from 150 to 200 laborers, and that in smaller ones a medical officer should make regular visits. This is a move in the right direction, and it is one in which I fully concur.

"The inspection of time-expired men, or imported laborers who have renewed their agreements, is also a source of frequent complaint, and in my opinion justly so, as it appears that an imported laborer, even if he works only for a day, and without any special contract, is liable to inspection. Still I think some protection is required even in the case of time-expired men, for although it is urged that a cooly after five years in Assam is quite able to take care of himself, still it may happen that from debts owing to his master, or from other cause, a man might be kept in a kind of slavery; and I have also heard of a compact made amongst planters by which they bound themselves not to hire each other's time-expired coolies on any terms, and thus

force them to return to their first masters, whom it may be they dislike. I am bound, however, to add that this compact has been dissolved, and my only reason for mentioning it is that what has happened once might occur again, and to show the necessity of some protection for time-expired men. This, however, is carried much too far; and as the law now stands, a man can hardly ever be a free agent who has once been imported. A remedy is apparently wanted, and I would recommend protection being extended only to such persons as have re-engaged themselves on some specific contract, either written or verbal, for six months or upwards.

"As matters now stand, a large number of coolies re-engage themselves in the gardens in which they served out their first contracts; and when I find fair wages, I have always looked on this as a sign of the good management of the gardens concerned.

"The books connected with the laborers on gardens are also a subject requiring notice. At present they are kept either in English or in the vernacular, and as few planters can read and write the latter, they and their laborers are pretty much in the hands of the mohurir who writes the accounts. On many gardens the accounts are beautifully kept, and I would insist that in all gardens where an Englishman is present, they should be kept in English.

"A good form of hospital register is also required. I do not know that the law absolutely requires any; but the sooner a good form is laid down (which will not only show the diseases the laborers have been suffering under, but what has been given to them in the way of diet, comforts, &c., while in hospital), the better it will be for their welfare and the satisfaction of their employers, &c.

"I think the planters are almost unanimous in disparaging what they call the up-country cooly, that is, men from all districts above Patna; and could they be sure of a full supply of labor from districts more within Bengal Proper, they would gladly see the importation of up-country men put a stop to. Once acclimatized, up-country men get on as well as others, but many, I fear, die in the hardening process. Flour-eaters, they cannot stand the continual rice diet."

MUNGLEDYE.

Captain M. O. Boyd, Assistant Commissioner.—"The paucity of labor is by far the most serious difficulty against which the planters of Assam have to contend; but it is not, I think, a difficulty susceptible of removal by any action on the part of Government. The competition of the Public Works Department, against which so many protests were made by planters some years ago, is no longer (at least in this district) a source of annoyance, and the supply of local labor is not diverted from tea gardens. In what way the action of the Government tends to diminish the supply of imported labor is not stated; and if, as I find it suggested, laborers were imported without the interference of Government, there can, I think, be little doubt that any numerical increase in the number of immigrants would be counterbalanced by inferiority in the quality of the coolies. To me it appears that a more rigorous inspection of intending emigrants is much to be desired, and that the law on this point would be relaxed only to the detriment of the planter.

"It is suggested that immigration might be encouraged by a modification of some of the more onerous provisions of Act II of 1870; but, except in regard to one particular class of men (the time-expired laborers), no planter has indicated the provisions of the law which he considers susceptible of modification. If recruiting through practically irresponsible contractors were abolished, and the requisite labor supplied by the agency of garden sirdars, and if the contracts of the emigrants were entered into a month after their arrival in the district into which they were drafted, it is quite conceivable that the protective clauses of the Act might be very extensively modified to the advantage of both employer and employed; but I do not see how such modification is possible in the case of newly imported men, who have to be protected not only (indeed not so much) against their employers, but against the consequences of their own ignorance. It may not always be an easy matter to secure to an imported laborer the enjoyment of all the rights guaranteed him by the law; but it is a far more difficult task to transform a disappointed man, who finds himself compelled, under heavy penalties, to remain in a country to which he has come under a grave misconception, into a contented and cheerful laborer.

"There are in this sub-division a large number of time-expired men bound by no specific contract, but free to leave their employers at any moment and to take service elsewhere. All the imported laborers employed by the Amicable and Colonial Companies are men of this description, many whom of have resided from six to eight years in the province, and have apparently no intention of returning to their homes. It is urged, and I think rightly, that the application of any of the provisions of Act II of 1870 to the cases of these persons is quite unnecessary. Many of these men state openly that it is not their intention to work regularly in the gardens, and that they do not expect to receive wages for the days when they absent themselves. A perfect understanding subsists between them and the managers on this head, and the coolies work in the gardens on an average about twenty days in the month, sometimes employing their leisure time in cultivating small patches of rice for themselves on their employer's land.

"It appears to me that regard for the interests of the cooly would be evinced by a modification of the law concerning these men, and that in substitution for long-term contracts, the due observance of which by the contracting parties is secured by special sanction, a state of things more analogous to the ordinary relations that subsist between master and servant should be encouraged as much as possible. In Assam, where the supply of labor is so wholly disproportionate to the demand, a time-expired cooly would be always sure of obtaining employment, and I do not think that on the score of wages he would need any special protection: in fact he would remain in a garden only so long as he was fairly treated. I would therefore advocate entire exemption from the provisions of the Act of all time-expired laborers who had not entered into a fresh contract for a longer term than six months (I have never yet met with an instance of a renewed contract for a shorter term than one year), and who had not received from their employer an advance or bonus which would render them liable to the provisions of Act XIII of 1859.

"It is further stated that the want is felt of a good contract law which would oblige men who had taken advances to fulfil their contracts or refund the money advanced. As remarked in paragraph 41 of the report of the Tea Commissioners, the remedy lies in the planter's own hands; and I believe this fact has been pretty generally recognized, *for the difficulty of inducing local laborers to fulfil their contracts has of late years sensibly diminished, though instances must of course from time to time* occur of loss of money advanced to persons who afterwards turn out to be destitute of means to repay the sum. The existing law, which empowers a Magistrate to order the repayment of an advance, and to inflict three months' rigorous imprisonment on a person disobeying that order, is doubtlessly, in spite of its stringency, ineffectual in some cases; but those are, with very rare exceptions, cases in which the offender is not possessed of property by the sale of which the debt could be liquidated, and in which consequently the advance would be irrecoverable by any possible action of the courts. Were these instances very numerous, they might surely give reason to doubt whether a law which in practice often treated poverty as a punishable offence, might not with advantage be modified in the interests of the laborer. At all events, I apprehend that it would be considered inexpedient to make an invidious distinction in respect of these particular civil contracts by providing that the consideration advanced shall, in the event of a breach on the part of the laborer, be recoverable in the same manner as a fine of a criminal court, and it is this which I believe is thought a desideratum by some planters."

Nowgong.

Major J. F. Sherer, Deputy Commissioner.—"The laborers employed on the tea gardens in this district are of two classes, viz. local or indigenous, and imported. The former are native agriculturists of the following castes, viz. Kolita, Kooch, Keot, Laloong, Cacharee, Hojai, and Mikeer, and mostly residents of the different parts of this district; but some come to labor from the adjoining districts of Kamroop and Durrung.

"The latter are chiefly Dhangurs from Chota Nagpore and other inferior castes, viz. Aheer, Dhooby, Bary, Kahar, &c., most of whom come from the North-Western Provinces of Bengal.

"I am myself greatly in favor of the system of recruiting by garden sirdars as made legal by Act II of 1870; better men are generally obtained by this system."

Mr. T. W. Greaves, Manager, Upper Assam Tea Company.—"Local coolies are plentiful in the cold season, and will do any kind of work; but in the rains it is with difficulty that we can secure a few for manufacturing purposes. With but very few exceptions, the gardens in this district are stocked with imported labor.

"*Recruiting by garden sirdars.*—My personal experience is much in favor of this system as opposed to the usual method of importing. The coolies my sirdars bring me are of the Dhangur *jat*; they settle down quickly to their work, never attempt to abscond, and generally renew when their agreements expire. My experience of the other

system is in most points the very reverse. Government should in every way possible facilitate recruiting by garden sirdars."

Mr. F. V. Harvard, Koliabur.—"It is in a great degree owing to the growing practice of recruiting by garden sirdars, restricted as it is, that the rate of mortality has lately become so markedly less than in former times."

SEEBSAUGOR.

Major A. E. Campbell, Deputy Commissioner.—"The question of labor is no doubt one of vital importance to the planter.

"For the purpose of tea cultivation the planter must look to Bengal for his labor; for although local labor is procurable, it is small in quantity and not to be depended upon, as remarked by Mr. Fisher, Superintendent of the Assam Company, whose remarks in original I enclose. I do not think any planter complains of the existing rules as laid down in Act II (B.C.) of 1870, except as regards the length of the original contract, which they would prefer to be five instead of three years; and also the clauses which interfere with time-expired coolies.

"The class of cooly preferred is that which comes from the Chota Nagpore division, and no up-country cooly will be taken if it can be avoided.

"As regards recruiting by garden sirdars, my opinion is that for old established tea estates like the Assam Company, it answers admirably. The company have coolies in their employ who have been there for years. These go to their homes and bring up friends and relatives, and there are many in and about Nazeerah who have regularly settled down and made Assam their home.

"In new estates I do not think recruiting by garden sirdars has been much resorted to, the managers most likely not having any sirdar of long standing whom they can trust.

"Some gardens recruit Cacharies largely; these are brought from Durrung or North Kamroop, but very often they desert, and planters complain bitterly of the difficulty they experience in getting the runaways (who have all had advances) arrested. This must always be the case until compulsory registration of agreements is brought into force. Again, the only law under which a planter can complain against a local laborer is Act XIII of 1859, which, in my opinion, does not apply to cases of laborers on tea estates who agree to work for two or three years. The Act is one framed more with regard to mechanics who contract to do a certain piece of work and fail to do it.

"I think for local labor some legislation is required."

Mr. Fisher, Manager, Assam Company.—"The labor question is the most important one that affects our interests. The production of tea in this district may be said to depend on our having a supply of laborers of a good class from Bengal; for although we employ local coolies to a considerable extent, they are not as a rule to be relied on, nor during certain times of the year are they available at all, as in the rice-planting season. I believe if we had direct road communication between Assam and Bengal—such a road as bullock-carts could travel on, if only in the cold season—a great part of the difficulty and expense of supplying our gardens with labor

would be done away with, as I think that laborers would come up with their families of their own accord. So many people now return to their country and come back again to Assam, that it can now no longer be the unknown land that it was some years ago; and the prospect of earning wages so much higher than they can get in their own country would be likely to induce people to emigrate, and in this way eventually the population in Assam would be largely increased. I confidently assert that our laborers are far and every way better off than they ever could have hoped to be in their own country. Their earnings through the year exceed, as a rule, considerably the amount named in their agreements; and as a proof that they are well off and contented, I would mention that 1,180 men, women, and children, signed new agreements during last year.

"Men from the Ranchee district employed in our gardens now go down and bring up their relations and friends in large numbers.

"While on the subject of these the most valuable class of coolies we can get, I would mention that the Government regulations for feeding imported laborers on the passage up to Assam are most injudiciously applied to these people. Used to simple food,—rice with a little vegetable curry, such as they make themselves in the jungles,—they are suddenly placed on an excessive rate of rich diet, oil being largely used in the preparation of their food, such as rich curries, and mutton being given them a certain number of days in the week, and with this change in their diet they get little or no exercise: the consequence is that they suffer from dyspepsia, which frequently terminates in choleraic diarrhœa, which kills them in numbers. Evidence, I believe, to any extent can be obtained to prove the excessive rate of mortality among these coolies on their upward voyage, and I have never heard two opinions as to the cause of it. Exceptional cases unfortunately now and then occur of ill-treatment of coolies, which I, and I am sure planters in general, sincerely deplore; but such cases are now very rare. And when it is remembered that a planter is often from 20 to 30 miles distant from the nearest Magistrate, and that he is responsible for the management and discipline of sometimes as many as 500 imported coolies, I think that the good order which exists as a rule, and the scarcity of complaints of any unfairness among the people, is very remarkable; and I think that in the present state of things any excessive interference on the part of Government officials between employers and employed is very much to be deprecated.

"As a matter of fact, as long as there are so few Magistrates in the district, it must be to the planter himself that we must look to for the maintenance of order among these large bodies of laborers, and I think that his hands should be weakened as little as possible by any unnecessary interference."

Mr. William Kitto, Lukmah Tea Estate.—"I have been engaged in tea cultivation for ten years, half of which time has been spent in Cachar, and the balance in Assam. I consider that the cooly importation question has been dealt with since the time when Sir John Lawrence became Governor-General of India in a manner prejudicial to the interests of employers and employed; and the action imposed on the cooly protectors has led to heavy losses on tea

proprietors, generally through desertion. The coolies have been taught (since 1865) that they were competent at any time to leave their work and go to the station and make a complaint, however frivolous, against the manager of the garden they were employed on, and in nine cases out of ten the Magistrates of the district give a verdict in favor of the cooly. I have had coolies summoned from my garden regarding their own petty cases to be heard in court, and although I have asked the police to look after the said people, several have absconded; and I have lost sixty rupees or more by each soul so absconding.

"I have no objection to make against either of the three Acts passed by the Bengal Council, as regards their general meaning, since 1868; but I do *most decidedly* object to the manner in which those Acts have been worked by the Government officials; for instance it is decreed by Act II of 1870 that the rate of pay shall be as follows for coolies imported into Assam, &c.—

For men,	Rs.	5	per mensem.
For women,	"	4	"
For children,	"	3	"

"Now, this rate of wages is the bone of contention and the cause of all discontent that has arisen in the tea districts of late.* Attached to the coolies' agreement is a schedule of work to be performed by each cooly for the amount of pay he or she is entitled to per month, and failing their performing this amount of work, it is only reasonable and fair that they should be paid according to law. But such is not the case, for the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has ruled that the coolies *are to be paid in full*, whether they work or not. And the Deputy Commissioner of Seebsaugor carries out these orders to the letter, and the consequence is a vast deal of discontent; and planters are now under the impression that in addition to the natural difficulties of their profession (that is, converting hundreds of acres of howling jungle into gardens of tea), they have to fight and battle with the opposition of the very officials who are paid (out of taxes they contribute to) to look after the interests of all residents in their district. This is not justice in the English sense of the word; and I am sure Lord Northbrook, our present esteemed Governor-General, with his well-known acute judgment, will not allow such a state of affairs to disgrace much longer his rule in India, regarding an industry described by himself as 'one of the most important in India.'

"I think that the agreements of coolies to serve on a tea estate should be for five years in lieu of three, as at present. Coolies for the Mauritius and the West Indies all go on a five years' engagement, and I cannot see why distant colonies should be more favored in this respect than the land of the cooly's birth, and where he has not to undertake a perilous journey by sea to the place he is engaged for. For the first two years of a cooly's term of agreement in India, he is of comparatively little value to the estate; but just as he is learning the business for which he was imported, his term of agreement expires, and through

* The rate of wages is not regulated by the Act. The writer's remarks, however, are none the less valuable, that they illustrate the amazing ignorance under which a planter is sometimes content to remain as to the law of labor under which he works, and his readiness to put frothy denunciation in the place of his want of knowledge.—H. H. C.

this very short term of service, he is capable of dictating his own terms for re-employment to the man who imported him, in consequence of the keen competition for labor induced by this short-term agreement. It has often been stated by Government officials that coolies were not fairly treated by the planter. Now this is on the face of it an absurd charge, for the man who does not take special good care of a cooly, who costs him Rs. 60 or 70 for a three years' agreement, must be a fool or something worse, for his neglect of said cooly, in any shape or form, is simply a waste of capital invested in the cooly by his employer, for which he is duly answerable. I believe this charge to be quite groundless (at all events for the past seven years). and for myself can appeal to the reports of the cooly protectors of Cachar and Assam as to the manner in which my coolies have been treated, and I conscientiously believe that 95 per cent. of tea gardens in India are equally careful of their imported labor—for the very best of reasons (if no other), that it pays them to be so.

"My experience of importing laborers by garden sirdars has been an unfortunate one in Assam, but there are gardens that have proved it a successful mode of getting labor. I happened once to select a man for the purpose who transferred the batch of coolies recruited in Midnapore for me (70 in number) to a Calcutta depôt sirdar on his arrival at the latter place. I think garden sirdars, when duly licensed, ought to be allowed to bring 30 or 35 coolies to tea gardens in place of the present number allowed.

"I am confident there is not a tea-planter in India who will not consider himself personally indebted to His Excellency the Governor-General for the interest he has now evinced for the tea-planting business of India generally; and if His Excellency will only allow the laws enacted for the purpose to be fairly and uniformly carried out, without allowing the Magistrates of each district to interpret those laws according to their own fancies or whims, tea-planters will ask no more. They only wish to be allowed to carry on their work without that amount of interference regarding matters strictly out of the pale of the law that they have for a long time been subjected to. His Excellency the Governor-General will see that the tea-planters of India, representing a larger amount of capital invested than any other class of industry in India (carried on by Europeans), need only to be given fair play in conducting their work to make their business of vast importance to India and its finances."

Mr. W. A. Stoddard, Manager, Naphook Tea Estate.—"First, as regards the labor question, comes the importing of coolies from Calcutta. Recruiting through garden sirdars would in my opinion be ultimately the best and cheapest way of importing. By this means, as it was very truly suggested to me the other day by a fellow planter, we should get batches of friends together: when one of such coolies falling seriously ill, he would have either a very near relation or dear friend to attend him; and I would say that nursing is half the battle with a sick cooly, for the want of which very many more deaths occur than would. No matter what arrangements the manager may make, no matter what the number of nurses, be that affectionate care wanting in the nurse, and that confidence that the sick man would feel during the

presence of one who more than cared for him, such patient will have a hard struggle for life. Hence recruiting by garden sirdars would be one of the means of reducing the number of deaths to a minimum. But there are great many risks as to what is to be done to secure one's self against a defaulting sirdar. As I write, I am in the unpleasant position above referred to, and a seemingly trustworthy man has not only run off with a sum of money, gaining an easy passage to his country, but the factory has lost 50 maunds of tea at least, that would have been made had this sirdar's coolies turned up, besides throwing the plants back for next season through insufficient cultivation; so that one is not only liable to the risk of the advance (which in itself is a small item), but also to the damage consequent on the vain expectation of a batch of coolies that will never arrive. Now, if there could be some protective measure, so that by means of a warrant the defaulter could be arrested and severely punished, commensurately with the amount of damage likely to be sustained by his default, a few such severe examples, and a knowledge of the utter inability to escape, would put a full stop to the present state of temptation, and then we may expect to see a healthy race of imported laborers. But until thoroughly protective measures are enacted, I for one will prefer the dearer but safer course of importing from one of the many depôts in Calcutta, and thereby ensure that my estimated season's operations shall be completed.

"Second comes local labor, which is of two classes: one, the time-expired imported laborers; the other, Assamese laborers. The re-engaged imported laborers as a rule work well, but the Assamese the reverse. A strenuous enactment should be made to prevent these rascals from ruining a portion of a season's operations by inducing a belief that they are going to work regularly for the period of their agreement. For instance, one of these gentry will take, say, an advance of twenty rupees, and arrange to work for two years; instead of working he begins to travel. After months, and a deal of bother, he is caught. What is the consequence? Oh! as a severe example, the court orders that he be imprisoned for one month, after which penalty the defaulter's agreement is cancelled and the advance lost. Why lost?—because a suitor's troubles commence from the date of his decree.

"Now that the Government is attempting to put tea-planting on a firm and proper footing, it would be a pity to stop short of actual success in all its ramifications, and I would suggest that it be enacted that all agreement-laborers, after punishment for default, be returned to their employers to complete their contracts with the term of absence added on, as in the case of imported labor; and that on a second offence of any once convicted laborer, he be whipped. The stick has a great terror for these innate thieves and scamps, – especially, without hurting the man much, the quiet, firm, systematic way the Government floggings are conducted. With nothing to gain and all to lose, defaulting in all its phases would be at a discount.

"I would draw attention to the very ruinous and utterly illogical course adopted by district officers in their interpretation of Section 4 of Act VI of 1865. Cases have been decided where a defaulting

laborer was ordered to be given Rs. 5 per month during the time of his default, and a woman Rs. 4, and so on, the Magistrate misconstruing the word 'at the minimum rate of Rs. 5 and Rs. 4, per month' for 'at the minimum amount or sum of Rs. 5 and Rs. 4, &c. Now, I think the word 'rate' expresses its own meaning quite clearly. Supposing a Magistrate contracted with a sheep seller that the latter should sell him 50 sheep at the rate of Rs. 3, would the buying Magistrate be entitled to deprive the sheep seller of his 50 sheep for Rs. 3? Quite absurd; and yet it is an absurdity inflicted on occasions on employers, and turns out to be a full permit for unscrupulous rascals to commit fraud. The fact of the matter is plain. Then an employer likes to get as much out of his laborers as they are capable of giving him, and not to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs, but to fatten it and to make it content with its place of residence, and not to urge it to fly away when its legs are untied.

"One of the most important phases of the labor question is its conduct, and there are ruffians who take a pleasure amongst their own witnesses to insult their employer, purposely to have the ultimate pleasure of confronting that employer as equal man to man, and swear his money away in the court of justice for an assault, or with a blood-stained cloth have him indicted for grievous hurt, or paint their backs and bottoms with the juice of a blistering berry and render a kind employer, only exasperated at their ingratitude and insolence, liable to the Court of Sessions. I would suggest that an employer be permitted a magisterial authority over his workmen, and have discretionary power, similar to that tacitly understood to be possessed by the head of a school, whereby he may exercise a beneficial influence by threats, and in emergencies by slaps, to keep up that state of discipline that always exists in a well-regulated factory where the bane of court prosecutions has not penetrated.

"I would submit further that there be a penal law for all defaulting contractors, by whom, since criminal prosecutions have been stayed, great loss has arisen."

Mr. J. W. Donaldson, Manager, Sonaree, Kanao, and Boonasalee Plantations.—"The labor question is one of the greatest impediments to the tea trade in Assam. Recruiting is done on a large scale by garden sirdars; but this is not only a very inadequate means of obtaining the necessary labor, but the risks attending it are manifest, viz. the loss occasioned to a garden by the said sirdar absconding and the manager patiently awaiting his return till such time the rains commence, and then it is but too evident the sirdar has disappeared, and that the garden must for some months at least remain short-handed, until coolies can be obtained from the depôts kept for that purpose. Getting laborers from the depôts is a very costly and uncertain thing. Indeed the only means to facilitate tea-planting is to make labor cheap and easily to be obtained, and this can only be done by a railway. A railway is what we all feel is greatly needed to assist the tea trade, and to this I would humbly draw the attention of Government.

"The local labor question might with advantage to the tea interests be looked into by Government.

"The laws for men taking contract work ought to be much more strict; and for coolies generally, both 'locals' and 'imported,' there ought to be one rate of pay, and the same laws governing both."

Mr. L. Ingels, Namdang Tea Estate.—"I would submit that at no period of the history of tea in Assam by Europeans was special legislation necessary for Bengal imported labor. The substantive Civil and Criminal Codes were, and are, quite sufficient to protect the laborer as well as the planter. Taking as a principle that it is the undeniable interest of the planter to treat his laborers well, it follows that any interference between them is a grievous mistake. There can be no doubt whatever as to the good and honest intentions of the Government in making special enactments for imported labor, but the result has been, I submit, a total failure, causing an immense deal of harm to the planter, with little or no good to the laborer. Government interference not only increases difficulties and charges attendant on importation, but actually destroys the healthy understanding, kindly feelings, and good will that ought ever to exist between employer and employed. I make no doubt whatever that imported laborers would be far better cared for, and more comfortable and happy, were all Government interference altogether withdrawn. As I have stated before, Act III (B.C.) of 1863, Act VI (B.C.) of 1865, and Act II (B.C.) of 1870, were unnecessary; and if unnecessary when they passed into law, Act II (B.C.) of 1870, which has superseded its predecessors, is, if I may so use the expression, far less necessary now when Assam is as familiar to the Bengal laborer as his native home. He is constantly going backwards and forwards, and in numerous cases returns to Assam to tea plantations without the intervention of Government. The provisions of certain sections of Act II (B.C.) of 1870 with reference to Bengal imported labor under written contract are, I most respectfully submit, an absurdity; and with reference to the same labor under no contract whatever, a monstrous absurdity. I see no reason why an Assamese, Cacharee, or any other native laborer of Assam, should not be placed under the provisions of those sections of that Act equally with the Calcutta time-expired Bengalee. I would submit that special legislation be entirely abolished, and that planters be permitted to recruit their own laborers without any interference whatever on the part of Government. At the same time I would suggest that Government afford planters increased facilities for recruiting in Bengal and elsewhere.

"I would submit that the provisions of Act XIII of 1859 and of the Civil Code are quite insufficient to protect the planter against breach of contract, both in cases in which advances are taken and in which advances are not taken: in both planters are subjected to grievous losses. The system of advances being the *dustoor* of the country, has forced itself upon the planter, and it may be said that the remedy is in his own hands. To some extent this may be true. Large capitalists can well afford to import labor, and so close the door to the native of Assam; but to those whose means are limited, and who therefore cannot afford to make large importations, the system must, and will continue. It is a common occurrence for an Assamese laborer to receive advances from many and work for none. To prosecute in the courts is time,

money, and labor lost, and garden operations retarded. In most cases good money is thrown away after bad: the result is that the delinquent if found, is incarcerated in the criminal jail, or the employer obtains a decree against him in the civil court.

"Incarceration does not benefit the employer, nor does he benefit by the decree, as the laborer has either little or no property, or if he has, that little is made away with to elude the law; the consequence is incarceration in the civil jail, where the delinquent now feeds exultingly at the expense of his employer. In cases where advances are neither given nor taken, a written contract is executed for the performance of certain work of importance to the planter at the expense to him of only the stamp paper on which such contract is written. Here again the contract is not only broken by the contractor, but the planter's remedy is, as before, nothing but loss; for the time in which to perform the work may have expired, and the season may preclude the possibility of its being done that year, or of other arrangements being made. I would therefore submit for consideration the enactment of a law for the specific performance of contracts."

GOLAGHAT.

Captain Blathwayt, Assistant Commissioner.—"Owing to want of time I have been unable to procure information as to the actual number of laborers on all the estates in the sub-division; but taking gardens the managers of which have furnished me with the necessary statistics, I find that of upwards of three thousand laborers the proportion is in round numbers—

"Bengalees under renewed or local agreements	15
"Assamese and Cacharies	10
"Bengalees under original agreements	6

"The general opinion of planters appears to be decidedly in favor of the employment of garden sirdars for the purpose of recruiting."

Mr. James Riddell, Superintendent, Jorehaut Company.—"I have no fault to find with the working of the present Cooly Acts, but would suggest that recruiters should be encouraged, and not hindered, by Government. My experience of recruiting by garden sirdars is not favorable, but I am again trying it this year on an extended scale. The resistance experienced by recruiters, especially on the part of the native officials, seems to be very great. Greater care should be taken in passing coolies in Calcutta and Kooshtea, and in seeing that coolies are not changed after being passed, as unfit coolies are frequently received.

"If Government wish to open up the country and to put the labor question on a satisfactory footing, they should send bodies of coolies from the over-populated, and often famine-stricken, districts of Bengal and settle them in Assam. The mortality might at first be rather high, but nothing to be compared to that caused by a partial failure of crops in their own villages.

"When cholera appears amongst coolies on their way up the river, the steamer should be hurried on instead of being detained as at present.

As a rule it will be found that cholera decreases as the river is ascended, and generally disappears before the steamer reaches the upper stations on the river. It is very rare that a batch of coolies is landed in Upper Assam with cholera amongst them, although it has been raging between Kooshtea and Gowhatty. I think no reasonable doubt now exists as to the good treatment of coolies on tea gardens. The work is light, and that done by women and children most suitable for them. Any willing cooly, male or female, can make more than his full pay by doing extra work easily. The care taken of coolies is generally great, and a case of ill-treatment a very rare exception indeed. In sickness the cooly is carefully tended. I may mention that this Company alone spends above Rs. 11,000 yearly on medical attendance and comforts for the coolies, and this sum does not include cost of medicines. The style of house given to the cooly has improved much, and is still improving. We are building pucca houses as opportunity offers.

"Greater assistance should be rendered by the police in apprehending coolies (especially Cacharies) and in preventing others, when possible, from absconding."

Mr. George Stocks, Manager, Brahmapootra Company.—"As regards the labor question I have little to say, having always received laborers who gave little trouble. The coolies employed are principally Dhangurs and Sonthals imported from Chota Nagpore, with a slight sprinkling of men from Bengal.

Imported laborers, original agreement		...	...	155
Time-expired ditto	ditto	...	...	492

"The number of Assamese and Cacharies employed averages about one 100 a day; but this year I anticipate a falling off in the former, owing to the great demand which the Public Works Department has for them, and the large pay they receive (4 annas per day), which planters cannot afford.

"Recruiting by garden sirdars I consider a better mode than getting coolies from contractors: in the latter you are never certain of your men, the slightest thing making them abscond; and being all mixed up of different castes, there is no family feeling, I may say, amongst them. On the other hand, when a sirdar goes to recruit, he makes sure of getting men only of his own caste, and generally his own relatives or those of the other coolies on the factory. Only about five months ago a batch of 136 souls were recruited by sirdars and brought up to Negri Ting from Bengal; they cost just about half of what coolies got through contractors cost, and have enjoyed, on the whole, since their arrival, good health. In my opinion there ought to be as little Government interference as possible with time-expired coolies, for unless these men are well treated and cared for, they have the option of going where they choose."

Mr. Kingsley, Manager, New Golaghat Tea Company.—"The laborers from Chota Nagpore are most suited to our requirements in Assam.

"I have not lately recruited through garden sirdars, but when I did so, I had every reason to be satisfied with the results. One man's

experience may differ from another's. Much depends upon the character of the men chosen to recruit, and if they are good men, the result will be likewise.

"As the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal recently remarked when receiving the reports of the Inspectors of Laborers, the system in vogue is more one of tasks than anything else; and the laborers I have had to deal with mostly perform full tasks and earn very fair wages. Those who wish to do so can also earn more than what the usual tasks give them, either by hoeing or plucking leaf.

"I have the humble satisfaction of knowing that I was one of the very first, if not the first, of those who, so far back as ten or eleven years ago, brought to the notice of the then Government of Bengal the unsatisfactory state of things that existed in respect to medical attendance for laborers coming to Assam on steamers. The result of my representation, made when I was not connected with tea, was the appointment of a qualified Native Doctor to each batch of coolies leaving Calcutta for Assam; and I have ever since watched with increasing satisfaction the enlightened measures adopted from time to time on behalf of laborers and in the interests of planters for whom they were intended.

"Whatever may have been the differences of opinion on some of the details, I do not believe that any honest man ever for a moment doubted that the measures taken were on the whole dictated by feelings of humanity and justice; and it was on this ground doubtless that opposition did not wax very strong when the action of Government further extended to the *tea districts*, and culminated in the appointment of special officers with the offensive title of *Protectors of Laborers*.

"That at one time, in the early history of tea-planting, there were some grounds which seemed to justify such singular action on the part of Government, is admitted by some and disputed by most. The time is long past. The miserable failure of a so-called protector in Cachar convinced the authorities that a man invested with special and singular powers, unless very freely gifted with common sense in a high degree, was most likely to make a farce of the numerous duties entrusted to him, and jeopardize a thriving and important industry. In the late Acts the title of the officer is changed to that of Inspector of Laborers. The Lieutenant-Governor, in his late review of the reports of the district officers who *ex officio* are Inspectors, speaks in high and satisfactory terms of the state of things in respect to laborers in tea gardens on the whole, and he goes the length of admitting what I have often contended for in the public prints, viz. that the laborers seem quite able to take care of themselves, as they know their rights fully and have courts near them at which they can always obtain redress.

"The time then has, I submit, arrived when an Inspector should be invested only with powers as to sanitation on gardens, and all other matters may safely be left to the action of the courts."

JOREHAUT.

Mr. P. T. Carnegy, Assistant Commissioner.—"The laborers who work on tea gardens here are either imported laborers brought up from Bengal, Cacharies from Durrung and Kamroop, or Assamese residing

in the neighbourhood of the gardens in which they work. Of imported laborers, the greater number are time-expired men who have stayed on in Assam of their own accord.

"As to the system of recruiting by garden sirdars, it is only comparatively recently that it has been attempted to be carried out on any great scale. From what I have seen of the working of the system, I think it ought to be encouraged. The sirdars have an interest in bringing up good men; they know, too, the kind of people who are most likely to do well in a garden, and look out for them. The sirdar also generally brings up men of the same village or neighbourhood as the batch of people he belongs to came from; so that when his recruits arrive at their destination, they find themselves comparatively among friends, and are not so liable to become low-spirited and homesick as people who are thrown entirely among strangers."

GATOONGA.

Mr. Raban.—"The rules for recruiting laborers in Bengal and in other parts of India should be relaxed, in order to facilitate the importing of coolies by garden sirdars; laborers thus recruited are 50 per cent. better than those supplied by contractors. A garden sirdar is generally paid by commission at so much per cooly, and it would be against his interest to bring up sickly, weakly coolies, for whom he would get no commission. Garden sirdars, too, know much better than the contractors the sort of coolies required on plantations; the latter merely look to making up a batch of the number ordered with the first coolies that come to hand, and the consequence is that men are sent up some of whom are weakly and unfit for any kind of work, while others are men who have never done a day's field work in their lives (such as Brahmins, Chutrees, &c.), and who are about as useful in a tea garden as they would be on boardship. At present the rules for recruiting are almost prohibitory."

BORHOLLA.

Mr. Sinclair—"Imported Bengalis from Chota Nagpore, Cacharies, and Assamese, or local laborers, are the men daily employed in my gardens; and of the former I have to state that during my ten years' experience in Assam, I have found them stand the climate remarkably well: in fact if able-bodied men are recruited they thrive much better and earn much more than they would in their own country. In short they seem to take kindly to Assam, and, being contented and happy, seldom avail themselves of the opportunity of returning to their own native village, thereby proving that Government interference under the opprobrious epithet of Protector of Laborers is needless.

"We have all along recruited our laborers through our own garden sirdars, and have found that to be the best and cheapest mode of securing good and serviceable men, for they bring away whole families, who have never been known to abscond, and who tend one another in cases of illness; whereas those recruited through contractors, being invariably single men and women, when they fall ill have no one to attend to them, and die off. The pay of laborers is that laid down by Government; but the women and children, by plucking excess leaf, more than double their pay, while the men, if so disposed, can do likewise."

LUCKIMPORE.

Major Clark, Deputy Commissioner.—"The present aspect of the labor question, as far as the planters are concerned, is one, I think, not all full of hope, though there seems to be a supply sufficient for the present limited demand.

"The field for recruits most looked to is Chota Nagpore, while recruits from other parts are becoming less and less sought for, and in time will probably in a great measure cease to be imported.

"The districts of Chota Nagpore, the inhabitants of which thrive so well after a short stay in Assam, will probably fail to meet the demand if tea cultivation extends greatly, and the population of Assam (certainly in this district) will never be a source from which labor will be obtained. The statement in the margin shows the class and description of laborers who work in the gardens of this district, distinguishing indigenous from imported laborers, and the districts or provinces from which the latter come.

Statement showing the number and class of laborers who work on the tea gardens of the district of Luckimpore; the number on original, and the number on local agreements.

District.	Description of laborers.	IMPORTED LABORERS FROM						Appropriate number of indigenous laborers.	REMARKS.
		Bengal.	Chota Nagpore.	North-Western Provinces.	Nepal.	Madras.	Total.		
Luckimpore.	Men ...	1,438	1,635	583	14	55	6,880*	Not ascertained.	These figures have been taken from the half-yearly cooly returns ending 30th June 1872.
	Women..	1,000	1,234	318	4	36			
	Boys ...	132	191	25	2	...			
	Girls ...	75	116	18	1	3			

* Of these 4,149 are on original, and 2,731 on local agreements.

"The failure to supply returns prevents my giving even approximately the number of indigenous laborers. Their number, however, I know to be comparatively very small, and they are almost without exception agriculturists of the neighbourhood of the factories on which they are employed, and to which they have recourse to do a little odd hoeing by contract, or leaf-rolling, after their own field work is over, and, when they require funds to meet the revenue demand on their lands, preferring to get a contract and an advance from some such work, to cultivating a little more produce for the village markets, as a means wherewith to meet their revenue payments.

"However, as leaf-rollers a few Assamese are very generally employed in factories; they come to the factory to do their task and afterwards return to their homes and their own avocations; there is too great a demand for labor everywhere in this part of Assam for Assamese ever to have to go far to find it.

"Besides indigenous and regularly imported laborers, either on original or fresh agreements, there are no other laborers on factories, though on almost every factory where the coolies are contented and happy there will be found a number of time-expired laborers, of either that or some other estate, who settle down on the factory lands or lands adjacent to them, and take work at the ordinary rates as they feel inclined, and taking their holiday when they want it. Feeling themselves

free, they work, I believe, well; their wives either help them or do a little shop-keeping. These coolies are generally thriving and well-to-do, but *all coolies* live in the hope of a return to their country, and large batches leave the district at times. Nothing but free grants of lands for five or ten years will retain this labor population in Assam, and it is a most important question in connection with the gradual improvement and reclamation of this huge waste.

"The laborers on original contract are 4,149; those on local agreements 2,731: total 6,880 (see statement). These figures do not include the free laborers mentioned above, whose terms having expired, work at will.

"The system of recruiting by garden sirdars is becoming very popular, and the results are said to be very good. My own experience confirms this. The number of coolies so recruited to the present time, however, only bears a small proportion to the whole number imported. The class of laborers selected by garden sirdars is said to be, and doubtless is, far better adapted to tea factory work, and there is a great gain by the terms under which they are introduced to the garden at once, acquiring a happier connection with their employer, their fellow-laborers, and the garden generally.

"The average rate of wages earned, as furnished, would appear from the returns which have been furnished me to be about Rs. 4-2-6 to Rs. 4-12-6. I believe this to be a highly-rated average, if not incorrect entirely. In some cases planters have furnished the rates of wages which a cooly can earn as the average rate, but not what he does earn; in others the average rates earned are approximately given; but as a fact, while on some gardens nearly full rates are steadily earned, on others hardly more than half rates are earned by the laborers.

"The time-expired laborer who re-engages, or who works at will, without an engagement, earns ordinarily from all accounts very fair wages indeed—often double wages by doing double work.

"There is no doubt that much difficulty is experienced in getting the newly-imported cooly to do his full work. He is generally unable, or says he is to do it at first starting, and on most gardens he is leniently dealt with, but after a time deductions are made for short work, and the consequence is a low monthly rate of wages. Where the *régimé* is strict, discontent makes the laborer absent himself from work, and for this also he suffers loss of wages."

North Luckimpore.

Captain Phillips, Assistant Commissioner.—"The history of the labor question in the sub-division of North Luckimpore is unknown to me, this office being devoid of records on the subject. Its present aspect may, I think, be said to be promising. The lamentably high rate of mortality in one of the gardens (Doolahaut), which for two years (1870—71) attracted the attention of Government, and was made the subject of careful inquiry, has now, I am happy to say, ceased. It was attributed by myself and others to the fact of the majority of the sufferers being coolies from the North-West Provinces—an opinion which the present improved state of things would seem to confirm. There are still a number of North-West coolies in the gardens on this side; there is also a large and increasing proportion of laborers from

the Chota Nagpore districts. I can give no figures, not even approximately, under this head, as neither the half-yearly nor any other returns pass through this office.

"Approximate figures, moreover, would be of no service. The imported coolies are mostly people of low, and often of no caste; they eat almost anything that comes in their way: and though professedly Hindus, yet when they come, as many of them do, into the station hospital, they frequently clamour for fowls to be given them.

"The indigenous coolies are almost invariably residents of the immediate neighbourhood of the gardens. It is a very rare thing indeed for an Assamese living at a distance to leave his home for the mere inducement of getting work in a tea garden. Their taking such work at all is generally attributable to temporary necessity, as for instance inability to pay their revenue, wanting to get married and not having the necessary means, being in debt to a Kyah and wanting if possible to escape payment of his exorbitant interest, or, as more commonly happens, pawning their freedom, being in want of a yoke of bullocks for cultivating purposes, &c., &c. In cases such as these they go to the tea-planter as their last resource, execute an agreement of service, receive an advance of twenty or thirty rupees, and in five cases out of ten never make their appearance at the garden again until they are compelled to do so as the result of an action against them for breach of contract. This state of things in the local market has induced the planters to import so largely as they have done, and at the cost of so much expense and trouble, in order, if possible, to be independent of local labor altogether. I regret my inability to furnish an approximate estimate of the number of this class of laborers at present employed in the gardens within my jurisdiction, as the time granted me has been too short to allow of my obtaining the information. I am equally unable to give separate, or indeed any, figures for laborers still bound by their original Calcutta contracts, and for those called time-expired laborers, my time not having allowed of my procuring these particulars; but I trust the half-yearly returns may supply my deficiencies on this head. The system of recruiting by garden sirdars, so far as it has come under my own observation, seems to me to have answered very well. The sirdars, being immediately responsible to their employers, are naturally more careful in their selection than comparatively irresponsible men would be, and the result is more healthy importations.

"The average rate of wages for imported laborers I believe to be about Rs. 4-8 per mensem for men and Rs. 3-8 for women. It certainly does not exceed this. The rates for indigenous laborers have been given by Messrs. Stewart and Sparks, and I am obliged to accept their figures for the whole sub-division for want of others. I must explain, however, how Mr. Stewart arrives at his maximum rates. In a demi-official letter he says: 'I give the best of my men Rs. 8 to hoe two poorahs of land, which they do in from 15 to 25 days; they get a bonus of Rs. 15, or Re 1-4 per mensem, and then after they finish their two poorahs of hoeing they do other work, for which they are paid at the rate of Rs. 5 or 6—new coolies Rs. 5, old Rs. 6: thus some actually get over Rs. 11. The old women, again, get Rs. 5 bonus, and a good hard-working woman can always make Rs. 2 by plucking extra leaf in the season; thus they get with bonus even Rs. 8.'"

D.—Labor.

Names of Districts.	Imported Laborers still bound by contracts entered into under Special Laws.				Time-expired Laborers.		Indigenous or Local Laborers.			
	No.	Class.	Districts from which they came.	Average wages earned by	No.	Wages earned by	Approximate number.	Class and description.	Whether residents of the neighbourhood of gardens, or whether they came from distance.	Wages earned by
Kamroop ...	13	Bengalees ...	....	Males Rs. 6 per month; females Rs. 5 per month.	227	....	1,200	Cacharies ...	Obtained on the spot and from the district of Durrung.	Males Rs. 6 per month; females Rs. 5 per month.
Durrung ...	2,290	......	The imported laborers came from Bengal, Chota Nagpore, and the North-Western Provinces. As a rule, those from Chota Nagpore are the best, and those from the North-West the worst. The Deputy Commissioner is unable to give details of the numbers and nationality of laborers imported under the Coolie Acts, as he says the office records of past years are defective.	Males Rs. 5 per month; women Rs. 4 per month; children Rs. 3 per month. The Deputy Commissioner remarks—"I fear that excepting during the tea season, when more money is earned by extra-leaf plucking, these wages are seldom earned, and under any circumstances I doubt if the rate of wages is sufficient."	495	In some gardens for males Rs. 6 per mensem; for females Rs. 5 per mensem.	3,600	Cacharies and low caste Hindus.	The Deputy Commissioner writes—"As a rule the localities of the gardens now in existence were chosen partly with a view to the easy procuring of local labor, and the majority, therefore, of local laborers reside near the gardens; but where the population in the vicinity of a garden is mainly Hindu, Cacharies are recruited to a considerable extent by the planters. These men are as a rule inhabitants of the Dooars in the northern part of the sub-division of Mungledye or of the Kamroop Dooars."	Average rate, Rs. 5 per month in the Mungledye sub-division, Durrung. Coolies resident in or near the gardens get Rs. 4 per month (males) and Rs. 3 per month (females). The Deputy Commissioner writes—"It is impossible to say what number of the indigenous laborers have rendered themselves liable to the provisions of Act XIII of 1859 by accepting advances from their employers."

Nowgong ...	728	Dhangurs, inferior castes, Aheers, Dhobees, Kahars, and Bary.	Chota Nagpore, N. W. P. of Bengal.	Rs. 4-4 to Rs. 5 per month. Some few (particularly women) earn as much as Rs. 2 per month extra above their ordinary pay.	293	......	Monthly average No. 1,030	Low Hindus, Laloongs, Cacharies, and Meekirs.	Residents of different parts of the district; some come from Kamroop and Durrung.	Rs. 5-8 to Rs. 6 per month. The Deputy Commissioner remarks—"The indigenous laborers are generally excellent workmen, and from being habituated to the climate, more work can be got out of them than from imported laborers."
Seebsaugor...	15,832	......	......	......	No information.		8,771			

Golaghat.

Captain Blathwayt, Assistant Commissioner.—"The average rate of pay earned is by Bengalees Rs. 4 to Rs. 4-8, rate of pay being Rs. 5 per month; Cacharies, Rs. 4-8 to Rs. 5, rate of pay being Rs. 5 per month; and of Assamese, Rs. 3 to Rs. 4, rate of pay being Rs. 5 and Rs. 5-8."

Mr. P. T. Carnegy, Assistant Commissioner of Jorehaut.—"The average earnings of garden coolies may be taken as follows:—For Assamese, the regular pay is Rs. 5 a month for all who work on a monthly agreement; for those who only come and work for a day or two, from three to two-and-a-half annas, according to the scarcity or otherwise of labor. Cacharie laborers almost invariably engage on an agreement to receive Rs. 6 a month for single task work, and very frequently they stipulate for double task work for double pay, whenever it can be given, and so even earn frequently Rs. 9 or 10 per month. Imported laborers, under their Calcutta agreements, receive the rates laid down in Act II of 1870. For laborers on local agreements the average earning may be taken as about Rs. 5 per month for a man, and Rs. 4 for a woman. At the Cumamora garden I find that 460 imported laborers, mostly time-expired people, of whom 240 are men and 220 women and children over seven years of age, have been working since 1st January last, and up to 31st August last their average earnings came to Rs. 4-13-1 monthly. This garden suffered severely from a hail-storm, so that the people have not this year earned so much as usual; but as it is the earnings of a family consisting of a man, his wife, and two working children, have frequently come to Rs. 20 a month in the picking season."

What rates are laid down.—H. H. C.

Assam Company.

Indigenous laborers (Assamese), average of the year 1871 ...	...	1,592	1,592
Imported laborers on 31st July 1872 ...	Bengalees, original agreements ...	1,099	1,099
	Cacharies, original agreements ...	......	
	Bengalees, time-expired	2,849	† 2,898
	* Cacharies, local ...	409	
	Bengalees, without agreements ...	1,030	1,030
	Cacharies, without agreements ...	......	
	Total labor ...		6,619

* All Cacharies put under this head. The local laborers are given at the monthly average of last year. These people work principally for us in the cold season.

The number of Bengalees and Cacharies is the actual labor employed on the 31st July 1872.

† Mistake in the original.

Note.—For information regarding the Luckimpore district, *vide* page 51, *et seq.*

(c.) Rates of mortality among laborers in past years and at present.

KAMROOP.

Major W. J. Lance, Officiating Deputy Commissioner.—"I have been unable to procure any data from which to obtain the rate of mortality on the different tea plantations in this district for past years, but there is no reason to suppose it to have exceeded the usual general death-rate, most of the laborers being indigenous. Fever and bowel complaints have been somewhat rife during the past season, but not with fatal results."

DURRUNG.

Major Graham, Deputy Commissioner.—"The season has been favorable, and the mortuary returns are, on the whole, favorable."

MUNGLEDYE.

Captain Boyd, Assistant Commissioner.—"Of the mortality among local laborers I have no statistics; the death-rate among imported coolies during the past three half-years is 1·48. It has been highest in the case of some coolies imported by Messrs. Lyall, Mackenzie & Co., a number of whom were persons recruited in the North-West Provinces, and I think the excessive mortality was mainly due to the fact that such men are too often constitutionally unfitted to stand the climate of Assam. Importations have of late years been rare, and I am confident the low average rate of mortality is due to this cause."

NOWGONG.

Major J. F. Sherer, Deputy Commissioner.—"The rates of mortality at the present time are, I am happy and glad to say, not nearly so heavy as they have proved in past years. The number of deaths during the past six years is as follows:—

In 1866	346
„ 1867	27
„ 1868	46
„ 1869	3
„ 1870	43
„ 1871	41

and during this past half-year of 1872 there have been but 10 deaths in all."

SEEBSAUGOR.

Mr. Fisher, Manager, Assam Tea Company.—"In this Company we are now employing 4,000 imported coolies under agreement. The mortality among this large number for the first half of the present year did not touch one per cent., and for the years 1870 and 1871 it was below 3 per cent."

JOREHAUT.

Mr. Carnegy, Assistant Commissioner.—"I have no statistics by me to furnish information as to rates of mortality, the returns being in the office of the Inspector of Laborers; but it is admitted on all hands that the mortality now is much less than it used to be" * * "I think the very utmost care should be taken to see that only sound, healthy people are passed at the depôts for Assam."

Luckimpore.

Major W. S. Clarke, Deputy Commissioner.—"The mortality for the past years, in respect to the different sex and class of laborers, is shown in the following statement :—

Comparative Statement of the mortality amongst imported laborers in the district of Luckimpore from the second half of the year 1865 *to end of the first half of the year* 1872.

Period.		Total number imported.	Total deaths.	Percentage of deaths.	Remarks.
2nd half of 1865	...	8,098	999	12·33	
1st „ 1866	...	10,397	437	4·20	11·82÷2=5·91
2nd „ 1866	...	9,362	714	7·62	
1st „ 1867	...	9,291	224	2·41	5·98÷2=2·99
2nd „ 1867	...	7,438	266	3·57	
1st „ 1868	...	6,897	106	1·53	4·66÷2=2·33
2nd „ 1868	...	6,123	192	3·13	
1st „ 1869	...	5,223	132	2·52	6·85÷2=3·42
2nd „ 1869	...	3,436	148	4·33	
1st „ 1870	...	6,162	89	1·44	3·11÷2=1·55
2nd „ 1870	...	6,681	179	2·67	
1st „ 1871	...	7,205	103	1·42	4·43÷2=2·21
2nd „ 1871	...	5,413	163	3·01	
1st „ 1872	...	6,880	112	1·62	
2nd „ 1872	...	Not received.			

"It appears that with the exception of 1869, in which also the rate was not extraordinarily high, the death-rate has decreased very steadily. I have no records older than 1865.

"The report which I called for from the Inspector of Laborers, Upper Assam, respecting the mortality among imported laborers, has not yet been received; but I beg to annex a comparative statement, compiled from my office records, showing the mortality in Upper Assam, Kamroop, Durrung, and Nowgong, since 1866.

"It is a matter for congratulation that great improvement has taken place in providing for the wants and well-being of the coolies, and that considerable reduction has taken place in the death-rate.

Comparative Statement showing the mortality in the several districts from 1866 *to* 1871.

Half-years.	Upper Assam.						Nowgong.						Kamroop.						Durrung.					
	No. of coolies at the commencement of the half-year.	At the close of ditto.	Total.	Average.	Number of deaths.	Percentage.	At the commencement of the half-year.	At the close of ditto.	Total.	Average.	Number of deaths.	Percentage.	At the commencement of the half-year.	At the close of ditto.	Total.	Average.	Number of deaths.	Percentage.	At the commencement of the half-year.	At the close of ditto.	Total.	Average.	Number of deaths.	Percentage.
1st half of 1866 ...	15,251 (1st and 2nd half of 1866)	18,742	33,993	16,996½	3,993	23·49	1,452	1,961	3,413	1,706½	264	15·47	114	292	406	203	46	22·66	1,384	2,820	4,204	2,102	403	19·17
2nd „ 1866 ...							1,299	872	2,171	1,085½	200	18·42	228	201	429	214½	5	2·33	2,648	2,292	4,940	2,470	587	23·76
1st „ 1867 ...	19,790	19,155	38,945	19,472½	1,115	5·72	466	398	864	432	8	1·85	225	250	475	237½	11	4·63	2,246	2,654	4,900	2,450	217	8·85
2nd „ 1867 ...	20,146	17,651	37,797	18,898½	1,176	6·22	398	398	796	398	19	4·77	291	271	562	281	12	4·27	2,593	2,295	4,888	2,444	230	9·41
1st „ 1868 ...	17,868	14,909	32,777	16,388½	399	2·43	398	345	743	371½	7	1·88	270	487	757	378½	25	6·60	2,299	2,200	4,499	2,249½	81	3·60
2nd „ 1868 ...	15,074	12,258	27,332	13,666	617	4·51	345	214	559	279½	3	1·07	400	314	774	387	27	6·97	2,200	1,989	4,189	2,094½	143	6·82
1st „ 1869 ...	12,258	8,998	21,256	10,628	375	3·52	212	280	492	246	21	8·53	314	202	516	258	8	3·10	*	*	*	*	*	*
2nd „ 1869 ...	8,998	7,529	16,527	8,263½	476	5·76	280	280	560	280	23	8·21	202	195	397	198½	5	2·51	2,113	1,655	3,768	1,884	211	11·19
1st „ 1870 ...	7,529	17,170	24,699	12,349½	256	2·07	280	779	1,059	529½	13	2·45	195	82	277	138½	5	3·61	1,655	1,641	3,296	1,648	75	4·55
2nd „ 1870 ...	17,170	16,937	34,107	17,053½	469	2·75	779	773	1,552	776	30	3·86	82	73	155	77½	6	7·74	1,641	1,479	3,120	1,560	108	6·92
1st „ 1871 ...	16,937	17,800	34,737	17,368½	260	1·49	772	937	1,709	854½	11	1·28	73	...	73	73	...	...	1,816	2,093	3,909	1,954½	45	2·30
2nd „ 1871 ...	17,936	17,404	35,340	17,670	435	2·46	755	655	1,410	705	30	4·25	80	191	271	135½	1	·73	2,093	2,703	4,796	2,398	80	3·33

* The return for the 1st half-year of 1869 of the Bishnath sub-division cannot be found, so these columns have been left blank.

Note.—The discrepancies between the number of coolies remaining at the close of a half-year and those brought forward at the commencement of the next half-year is attributed to errors in previous return.

E.—What obstacles exist in each locality to the fullest development of the industry.

(*a.*) *Whether complaints made have any substantial foundation.*
(*b.*) *Facts to be made clear.*
(*c.*) *If obstacles are considered insuperable, reasons to be given for entertaining that opinion.*
(*d.*) *What measures can properly be adopted by Government to facilitate the fullest development of the industry.*

KAMROOP.

Major W. J. Lance, Offg. Deputy Commissioner.—"The principal obstacles are the hardships that often ensue when an intending tea-grower who has searched for and marked out an appropriate piece of land personally applies for it at cutcherry. The land is then of course put up to auction, and others come forward who have undergone no trouble in the matter and frequently outbid the original applicant, obtaining without trouble the whole fruits of his time and labor. The planters themselves suggest that Government should give the land to the original applicant at the Government rate.

"Objections are also taken to the continued supervision by Government of time-expired coolies: the knowledge on the part of the coolies that they are so esteemed makes, the planters say, an impression on their minds unfavorable to the employer's interest. It appears to me, however, that if the relative rights of employer and workmen are mutually maintained, Government supervision can then be hardly more than a name; any efforts to enforce more from either party than is due would be met by a simple dissolution of the relationship between the parties, nor indeed is it to be supposed that such an attempt would be made."

DURRUNG.

Major Graham, Deputy Commissioner.—"The complaints regarding the Waste Land Rules, and the obstacles they throw in the way of procuring land, are universal; the main complaint being that, setting aside the difficulty of procuring land of any kind, in consequence of its having some forest on it, or that, as it appears capable of cultivation by possible ryots of the future, it must be reserved for them, even when a plot has been selected, and trouble and expense incurred in clearing its boundaries, it may after all be purchased by a higher bidder, and thus the time, trouble, and expense of the first applicant lost.

"What the planters say of this is—'Let Government put what price it likes on its land, but when we have made our selection and this has been approved by the district authorities, let us not be deprived of it by a higher bidder or delayed in our obtaining possession of it by long periods of advertisement, or kept in suspense pending the conclusion of a Government professional survey.' There is a good deal to be said in favor of this view, and so long as precautions are taken that land belonging to others is not included in the land sought for, I do not see why auction sales should not be abolished and the period of advertisement abridged. The upset price per acre might be increased (double the present rate per acre would not be too much), and

I would shorten the notice of sale to one month from its first appearance in the Government Gazette. This would, I believe, give satisfaction, and I think the safeguard as regards the interest of others in the land would be sufficient.

"Should it however be determined that auction sales shall continue, I would provide that a purchaser should refund at certain rates all expenses which had been legitimately incurred in the demarcation of the grant.

"To take up land on ordinary pottah would also doubtless pay the planter; but here there is the chance of his exhausting portions of the land, and then resigning them. A permanent settlement at so much per acre might also be acceptable, provided a certain proportion of forest land were allowed. A great complaint, and in my opinion a just one, is the delay which takes place in what is considered the final Government professional survey. This under present arrangements may not take place for years. It may be said that Government has not the means always to make this survey promptly; but I am of opinion that it should either find means to do so, or trust to the survey made by the district officers.

"Another difficulty in the way of procuring land for tea cultivation is said to be that 'forest land' is refused. This, however, is only true to a certain extent; and in any case it must be recollected that as it takes three years for tea to grow before wood is required for its manufacture, that in the meantime a forest for charcoal-burning purposes might almost be made.

"At present the prodigal waste of timber for charcoal on gardens where trees exist is excessive, and I lately estimated that on a moderate computation 1,000 trees are on an average used yearly in this way alone on each garden, while not a single tree is planted to replace them. This is a state of affairs which cannot last for many years; but so long as high dividends are the chief desideratum, I see no remedy for it. In burning also the waste is great, and I doubt if 50 maunds of wood produces more than 10 maunds of charcoal. This might surely be remedied.

"It is reported that timber on land refused for sale (as being forest land) is often of small value, which is true; but then the wants of the general population must be taken into consideration, and it is requisite that the ryots should have access to certain tracts for such articles as wooden ploughs, posts for huts, &c.

"Within a certain distance of villages I would certainly reserve some forest and grass lands, as it would never do to give a planter or any one else the option of shutting in villages by purchasing the land and forests about them; but it is not easy to lay down a law for each case, or even a general law: and here again I think the discretion of the district authorities must be trusted to."

MUNGLEDYE.

Captain M. O. Boyd, Assistant Commissioner.—"Dissatisfaction regarding the obstacles thrown in the way of intending purchasers by the Waste Land Rules appears general. One gentleman goes so far as to say that 'it is the opinion of most planters that the Government is desirous of keeping Europeans out of the province as much as possible.' I

Difficulties of which planters complain.

is of course difficult to understand how such an opinion can be held in the face of the fact that rules for the sale of waste lands—in themselves an important concession—exist, for the cultivation of tea on lands held under the ordinary pottah tenure would be undoubtedly profitable; and it is undeniable that the existing Waste Land Rules afford very superior advantages to the growers of tea over those enjoyed by the cultivators of the other staple commodities of the country.

"The principal objection made to the existing rules is that lands are put up to auction instead of becoming the property of the original applicant, and it is stated, not without reason, that the provisions for the refund by a successful competitor to the applicant of the costs of survey and of clearing boundaries in no way compensate for the loss of time and money incurred in searching for the land. The sale of the land outright to the original applicant would, I think, be considered a great boon by the majority of planters, and instances of sale above the upset price are so rare that I believe the concession would entail little loss of revenue to Government. So seldom indeed is there any competition at auction that I question whether this modification would be found practically of much value, and whether the reduction of the term required for advertisement of the sale from three months to one month, and the consequent curtailment of the long period during which an applicant is left in suspense, would not on the whole be more advantageous, for I take it that the abolition of sale by auction would not do away with the necessity of advertizing, at least locally, the contemplated alienation of the land.

"Were sale by auction abolished, I believe that complaints would not be unfrequent that the Collector had sold land the occupation of which would seriously prejudice the interests of earlier settlers. I could cite instances, by no means exceptional ones I believe, of planters taking up tracts of 50 to 100 acres of waste land under pottah solely in order to protect themselves against a new arrival who was about to apply for land so situated as to cut them off from the source whence they drew their supply of local labor.

"A sale by auction is an undoubted safeguard against the taking up of land to the prejudice of other grantees, and to be generally acceptable I think that the sale of grants outright to the original applicant would have to be coupled with the condition that the land applied for was situated at a certain distance from any other garden, and this, in point of fact, would be almost tantamount to providing that there shall be no auction in cases where, had there been an auction, the applicant would have obtained the land at the upset price. The advantages of abolishing the auction sale appear to me to have been over-estimated, but I think the saving of time which would be effected by reducing the period required for advertisement would be a very great boon; and I would also include in the sums to be deposited under Clause 3, Section 9 of Chapter XXVI by a purchaser other than the original applicant, the cost of making the boundary road calculated at a fixed rate per 1,000 cubic feet of earthwork, in accordance with the rates of labor prevailing in the district.

"Another objection is that the existing rules prohibit the sale of forest lands, while timber is indispensable to the planter. The Government has recently permitted the use *gratis* of certain soft woods,

and this timber is of a kind especially adapted to the making of charcoal. If the sale of lands on which this class of timber grows be unrestricted, no great difficulty need be experienced, for charcoal is not required till the third year; and if a purchaser plants for himself immediately on obtaining the land, he would have a supply of fresh timber ready for use by the time he had exhausted the original stock, since the inferior woods are of very rapid growth. It may not be out of place to remark that during the time I was in charge of the Luckimpore district it was the practice to obtain the opinion of the Assistant Conservator of Forests regarding the value of timber growing on any land that was applied for under the sale rules, and in no case did that officer consider the timber sufficiently valuable to warrant his objecting to the sale or recommending an enhancement of the upset price.

"It is also urged that the proximity to a few huts of a tract of dense jungle which is not a common used for grazing purposes should not be made an excuse for withholding its sale. The question whether there is a sufficient number of huts in the neighbourhood of the land to constitute a village, and whether the sale would be prejudicial to the villagers, could only be decided on the merits of each case as it arose."

NOWGONG.

Major J. F. Sherer, Deputy Commissioner.—"I would simply remark that considerations of general policy often render it impossible for the Government to do all that those pecuniarily interested in an undertaking may suggest and desire."

Mr. T. W. Greaves, Manager, Upper Assam Tea Company.—"The system of interference by Government between the planter and his laborers is much to be deprecated, and the extent to which it is now being carried would seem to point to a rooted distrust on the part of Government towards planters as a body,—a feeling which we have done little to merit. I would repeat what has often been said, that a liberal policy on the part of Government, directed to the opening of proper roads and the encouragement of emigration, would be the best guarantee for the future development of the tea trade and the general welfare of the province."

SOKUNBARREE.

Mr. James Harris.—"It appears very unjust that an application for a grant of waste land should be refused on the report of the mouzadar that there is valuable timber on it. Possibly there may be: the injustice lies in his having the power of giving permission to ryots to cut down the same timber the preservation of which was the reason for the refusal of the application.

"I am only acquainted with the central part of this, and as far as I have seen there is very little valuable timber in the district. The whole face of the Meekir hills was at one time an almost continuous sâl forest for 40 miles; it has all been cut down and burnt on the ground within the last 20 years. In 1844 Captain Eld brought the timber for his bungalow from Kutteatolly mouzah. There is still a quantity of sâl on the Deejoo, but the Meekirs cut it down in large

quantities every year; and unless Government interfere, the ruin will soon be complete. Some years ago there was a large sâl forest near Duboka, but I believe it is gone; and in 1863 I saw tracts of sâl in Dantipar near Amouru village, but it has most probably been joomed by the Meekirs.

"Nowhere in the Nowgong district is there any timber to be found. In 1855 the extensive country lying between the jalla or flooded land on the Nonoi and Seconie was a forest, except where the land was too low. The Meekirs had just commenced jooming there a year or two before; now there is nothing but tall grass jungle intersected by a thin strip of timber denoting a *hola* or water-course in the rains, which are met with every mile or half mile.

"It appears to me unjust that the present planters are not to be allowed to increase their property because it is within a certain distance of a village. The garden is a benefit to the villagers: ready sale is found among the Bengalee coolies for their surplus rice and their poultry; above that, in one concern there is expended monthly Rs. 1,000 for women and children in the villages.

"The Government is said also to have decided that no land shall be granted to any European that may possibly be cultivated by a native until 20 years from now. I do not know upon what information the Government have acted in coming to this decision. In Kamroop there is a strong infusion of Bengalee industrial habits in the lower parts of the district; and there is, I have no doubt, owing to the mouzadars having long favored Cacharie ryots, a large increase of cultivation of roopeet land, but in Nowgong there is not room for it. The population seems, from the fact that we see no traces of former diffusion, always to have been confined to their present localities; and the Assamese population, easily satisfied and averse to work, are not likely to attempt cultivation on the hard diluvial lands. In this neighbourhood I have never noticed any extension, but I could point to places where large tracts of roopeet land have been recently deserted.

"With reference to the future disposal of lands, I should suggest that where an application has been made for land, the Deputy Commissioner of the district should personally decide on the propriety of alienating the land during his cold weather tour, and he would personally see the boundaries, &c.

"The Deputy Commissioner, if satisfied that there was no objection to the sale of the land, might be empowered to fix the price of the same, taking into consideration its soil, situation, facility of communication by road or river, and the matter settled by the approval of the Commissioner of the province. The planters do not grudge the price: their complaint is of the delays and trouble with the native fiscal officers.

"If Government decide that land is to be held in future only on payment of a yearly rent, I would still prefer that the settlement was made by the Deputy Commissioner on the spot. The yearly rent would be no objection provided the grant was perpetual, subject to the mouza rates for similar land in settling the quit-rent."

Mr. C. Haxell, Manager of Seconie Tea Estate.—"The unlimited reservation by Government of all forest lands is sufficient to throw a

damper on any one who is desirous of embarking in tea cultivation. In this district, for instance, there are no valuable tracts of forest, but in most cases thin patches of timber scattered in large fields of grass jungle. The only really valuable timber here is sâl, and that so thin, that I believe if all the district contains were collected together, there would not be 30 acres of it. The other species of timber are valueless for Government purposes, and yet the planter is not allowed to cut them, or include any in his grant, though to him they are valuable for making charcoal and temporary buildings, coolies' lines, &c.

"The question of next importance is that of imported labor; but as this question has doubtless been treated by abler hands than mine, I will only say that I think a little less legislation on the matter would be beneficial to all parties. After this comes the question of local labor, and this affects the planter more than is generally known: for instance when first opening a garden he is obliged almost entirely to depend on it, as the risk of importing labor into new clearances, which are naturally unhealthy, would be very great, and as they (the local coolies) generally make a rule of never working unless they get a large advance, it has to be given. After working a few days they go home, and most of them refuse to return without a further advance. The only present remedy against this is a tedious civil suit; and when, as in most cases, the defendant has no property, it is simply loss of time and money. Again, they allow their cattle, buffaloes, and cows, the former most destructive animals, to roam about without any care for the best part of the year, causing great loss to proprietors of tea gardens, especially new gardens. To these grievances I will add only one more, and that is that the ryots make a habit of stealing the small and best timber off grants. No doubt there is redress for these offences, but the process of obtaining it is so tardy and expensive, that most proprietors and managers prefer allowing the matter to drop."

Mr. F. V. Harrard, Koliabar Tea Garden.—"I think that on a question already so important to many and likely to gain importance with time, it would have been better had the planters of the district assembled, and after deliberately and carefully discussing the causes and proposed remedies for existing difficulties, submitted the result of their deliberations in the form of a comprehensive *précis*, thereby economizing time and labour and providing for a unanimous opinion more worthy of claim to notice than any number of individual ideas, however reasonable and to the point.

"The short notice afforded us and other causes have prevented the execution of this plan, and in default of better, I give my individual opinion on one or two points in which I have had personal experience.

"*1st.*—The system of recruiting and passing recruits into Assam is, I believe, to be charged with much of the mortality and most of the desertions. The licensed recruiters in Calcutta have only one end in view, viz. to collect and pass into Assam the greatest possible number of recruits at the least possible cost to themselves. They employ men on 'commission' to collect the coolies, and these men, being without education and principle, use without scruple every means in their power (which are many and various) to induce any one, irrespective of religion, caste, or occupation, sex, age, and capabilities, to recruit.

"Each cooly is promised occupation suiting his or her special propensities, and priests, tailors, and prostitutes are jumbled into a batch, to which is probably added one or more blind* or imbecile to make up numbers. These people arrive in Assam, and what wonder that a large percentage either run away, or, if wanting in energy for thus escaping, give themselves up to melancholy, lose hope and health, such as they have, and become confirmed malingerers.

* The writer has received two imbeciles and two people who cannot distinguish between a tea bush and jungle.

"In addition to the bad system from which the recruit suffers, planters are heavy losers by the unscrupulous tampering with their recruiters and recruits by the agents of the licensed contractors, who, when they find a private recruiter more successful than themselves, endeavour, by bribery and threats offered to him, and by these and misrepresentations made to his recruits, either to induce the former to make over his recruits, or to make the latter desert, when they easily pick them up.† I would suggest, as a remedy for these drawbacks, that, first, the magisterial and medical examination should be more strict than at present, and that the system of recruiting by garden sirdars should be encouraged by putting all recruiters on equal terms. Employers have at heart the importation of a *few good* coolies, and by putting their names to the garden *employés'* license, they make themselves responsible for his actions.

† The writer has lost 20 coolies and a considerable sum of money in this way during the current year.

"Of the degree of supervision and control over the cooly during the period of his first agreement, I do not feel myself competent to speak, but I believe that many time-expired coolies would settle down in or near gardens if they were not precluded by the intervention of Government rules and restrictions from making a covenant with their employers as freely as any of their Assamese neighbours can at any time do.

"The waste land question, in my humble judgment, has been a source of much unnecessary loss to planters and trouble and annoyance to Magistrates and others, whose difficult part it is to act in accordance with the instructions afforded by Government authority, and do justice at the same time (if possible) to applicants.

"As a rule, land applied for and considered valuable by tea planters is usually that neglected and valueless, except on account of the wood grown on it, in the eyes of natives. Wood therefore appears to be the stumbling block; but why, does not appear to those who, living in the district and witnessing the constant and wholesale waste caused by natives, cannot but believe that were the available timber used, and not abused, there would be enough and to spare for all. So long as natives cut down large forest trees to scoop a boat from, to pluck fruit or seed from, or to reach a bird's nest; so long as Meekirs and others are allowed annually to destroy large tracts of virgin forest (which tracts do not become forest again, but *grass jungle harbouring tigers*), not for the sake of utilizing the timber (which is burned, thrown down khuds, or otherwise cleared off), but to raise one or two exhausting crops of cotton or Indian-corn, so long will men who are striving to make the most of a rich but neglected country feel bitterly the unequal law which

restricts—even prohibits—them from utilizing for the purpose of legitimate industry, for building tea-boxes, &c., &c., that which the naked savage destroys wantonly with impunity, he paying a nominal royalty, and for this permanently destroying the valuable timber and in its place raising a howling wilderness, whilst the educated and morally responsible developer of commerce, and therefore of revenue, whilst using his privilege moderately and without permanent injury to the forests, would willingly pay ten times the sum for the right."

SEEBSAUGOR.

Major A. E. Campbell, Deputy Commissioner.—"The chief objection urged with regard to the present Waste Land Rules is sale by auction. A planter urges that after he has had the trouble of selecting a piece of land for tea cultivation, cutting boundary lines, &c., he runs the chance of being outbid at auction. Again, objection is taken to the present *ad interim* rules, which do not allow of any land being taken up in the vicinity of a village, or that has been cultivated during the past twenty years.

"There is a good deal to be said in favor of the planters' argument, and I am of opinion that more liberal rules might be conceded. I would recommend a set of rules more in the spirit of those known as Lord Canning's, and I would do away with sale by auction except in cases of dispute. No grant should be sold of larger extent than 500 acres, and the price should be fixed by Government; and not an acre of land should be alienated until it has been surveyed, and the rules should provide for the survey money being lodged with the application.

"The Collector, after satisfying himself that the land was available, should direct it to be surveyed, and for this purpose a small establishment might be kept up in the province, the cost of which would be met by the planters. After survey the planter should be made to erect the boundary pillars before being placed in possession.

"In a climate like this, where vegetation is so rapid, to make boundary roads round waste land grants is next to useless.

"There may be a very good road cut through the jungle this cold season, but not a vestige of it will remain next. Again, a tract of land is selected by a planter, on all four sides of which there is nothing but jungle; it is impossible to give good boundaries, and yet this very piece of waste land is just what ought to be sold.

"In recommending more liberal views as regards waste lands, I take into consideration the fact that land-jobbing is at an end, and that for the opening out of this province and reclaiming the larger tracts of waste, Government must look to tea cultivation only; and that this will not be done if land is procurable only under the ordinary cultivation lease of the district, no one, I think, will deny."

Mr. Fisher, Manager, Assam Company.—"I wish to express the very great pleasure I feel, which, I am sure, will be shared by all planters in Assam, in having proof of the interest taken by His Excellency the Governor-General in the success of our undertaking. It will, I am sure, be very gratifying to planters to learn that His Excellency has expressed a wish that their opinions should be taken as to whether any measures can be adopted by Government in order to

remove any obstacles which may exist to the development of the production of tea.

"It will be the more gratifying to them for the reason that there has existed for some little time a sort of feeling, among a great number of planters certainly, that the Government of Bengal has looked coldly and with distrust upon them and their interests.

"This feeling of irritation was caused, I fancy, partly by continuous, and I am bound to say in a number of cases most unnecessary, questions on the subject of our imported laborers, which were sent through your office from that of the Commissioner during last year, and partly by the increasing difficulties placed in the way of their obtaining grants of land under the fee-simple rules. I should say that tea planters' wants, as far as Government can in any way assist them, are as follows:—

"A liberal interpretation of the land rules, both in the way of acquiring grants for cultivation and patches of forest adjoining existing gardens for charcoal burning.

"Facilities in recruiting laborers in the best districts, such as Chota Nagpore (this of course must be regulated by officials), but it has seemed to me that unnecessary difficulties are often raised.

"Improvements in roads and bridges, and a line of telegraph from Gowhatty to Debrooghur. The latter, I have always understood, was promised by Sir William Grey on the occasion of his visit to Assam, and although the necessity for it cannot perhaps be called urgent, still it would be a great boon to all residents in Assam.

"With regard to the land rules, no planter can expect that existing rights should be overlooked for his own benefit; but it seems to me that these are stretched somewhat unnecessarily. I made an application myself in your court a short time ago for a small grant of land; the mouzadar made the following report upon it:—'That there was rent-paying land within the area, that villagers cut firewood on it, and that it was near a village.' The pottah land consists of a small piece of forest partially cleared for growth of the silkworm on a few mezankoori trees, which trees are seldom used for more than two years. No objection would have been made by me to the villagers continuing to take firewood from the land, and of course neither I nor, I am sure, any other planter would be so short-sighted as to drive villagers away from the neighbourhood of his garden by refusing them this indulgence. Hundreds of Government ryots take all their firewood, as it is, from the gardens and lands of this Company. The tenant of the pottah land could have been dealt with easily by the payment of a sum of money for his land, which he will probably throw up next year, and it is not difficult to foretell that a village would be far more benefited by having a tea garden near it than a stretch of 400 acres of forest land. The application was refused on the report of the mouzadar.

"Under the existing rules, as published in the *Gazette* of the 19th September 1871, the acquisition of all lands within reach of local labor is made almost impossible; and the sanction or refusal of applications may be said practically to be put in the hands of the mouzadars, for it must be on their report that the Collector forms his judgment, and it must be admitted that they are hardly a class of men fitted to have this power.

"The rules say—'The Collector will reserve all lands suited to the ordinary crops of the country which is in the neighbourhood of cultivated land, and which in his opinion is likely to be taken up under the ordinary settlement rules of the district within a reasonable period. He will also reserve all land bearing valuable timber, and all lands known to contain minerals (should there be any right, or reasonable semblance of right, he will refuse to sell and will report the matter for the orders of the Commissioner). In no case is any cultivated or inhabited land to be sold as waste, nor shall any land which appears to been cultivated within 20 years be sold without special report to the Commissioner.'

"In all doubtful cases the Commissioner will report for the orders of the Board of Revenue; but it is for the mouzadar to say whether any particular land is suited to the ordinary crops of the country, and to determine how far the neighbourhood of cultivated land extends, and, I may even say, to decide on the probability of the land being taken up under the ordinary settlement rules of the district within a reasonable period. Again, as to timber, how many trees of valuable character are required to debar planters from obtaining the land on which they stand. The rule as it stands is so vague, that almost any land may be refused on the report of the mouzadar that it bears valuable timber, when perhaps there may not be one hard wood tree to the acre.

"I think that the acquisition of small grants of land under the fee-simple rules should be made as easy as possible for *bonâ fide* planters. The prosperity of the natives of the district themselves would be largely enhanced by the extension of the cultivation of tea, and at the same time the interests of Government must at any rate be indirectly benefited. The objection all planters have to taking up land under the ordinary rent-paying rules is that property so held is very unsaleable, and that it is liable to re-assessment; and it is only natural that before investing their capital in an undertaking such as tea-planting, they should desire to have a clear and transferable title to the land they intend to plant."

SAPAKATIE.

Mr. S. E. Peal.—"Like most of those engaged in tea cultivation, I am glad to see that attention has been turned to this branch of industry, and have no doubt but that much good will result from it.

"With regard to the obstacles which retard a fuller development of this branch of production, they appear to me as mainly two—1*st*, the labor question; and 2*nd*, land matters.

"It seems to me that no really permanent solution of the question of an adequate labor-supply can be expected till we have a railway through the province. Tea is an industry the growth of which is so rapid that it is generally far in excess of the supply of labor, whether drawn from the indigenous population or brought by steamers.

"To supply the present needs of the province, very little short of an immigration *en masse* is required. Out of 18 or 20 factories around me, there is not one that is fully supplied, and I know of many at greater distances equally short-handed.

"The resident population is far too scant to offer more than a very temporary relief, even if utilized, and the action of the courts in cases

of 'breach of contract' is generally so prejudicial to the employer, and the Assamese seem so generally to get off their agreements and any deterrent punishment on most insufficient grounds, that their employment is becoming actually less and less as other labor is obtainable, and many managers have orders to dispense with Assamese as much as possible, although for many things they are so superior to imported labor.

"Importation of Bengalees by steamer in the unsual way is, on the other hand, both costly and tedious, and all but impossible to any but the large companies and wealthy private firms. Many are forced to rely on Assamese, and the chance of engaging time-expired men, got up at other people's expense originally, and which is the cause of much local disturbing competition not always so beneficial to the laborer as may at first sight appear, and which directly encourages desertion and litigation.

"The special and elaborate interference of Government between employers and employed, originating when speculation and a financial crisis crippled tea, is still continued, when there seems much less need for it; and the minute and stringent regulations regarding transport and employment of imported labor, re-engagement of time-expired people, &c., largely add to the cost of employing this class of labor.

"The compulsory payment of wages for Sundays on which no work is done is alone an item of most serious moment to us all, thus arbitrarily increasing all expenditure on account of labor by some fourteen per cent. The saving on this one item alone, if remitted to us, would enable all who cannot now import to do so at once.

"Again tea is an industry eminently calculated to give profitable and sudden employment to large masses, who, through floods or droughts, may have in other provinces been reduced to the verge of famine, the latter being a calamity by no means uncommon in India. But while we have no railway, this most legitimate and economical mode of providing temporarily for large numbers of people is closed to all.

"Those who profess to see in a railway a ruinously keen competition with the river steam navigation, I would refer to the pamphlet on the Railway to Assam by the late General Jenkins, who so many years had the administration of this province, and of all others was well qualified to pass an opinion on the matter. By his recommendation the railway should pass first due north from Kooshtea to Rungpore, and over a tract of country singularly free from large rivers (or small), and lying well to the west of the Brahmapootra, which is slowly eating in that direction; thence passing north-east, and crossing the river where a granite ridge offers a 'permanent' position, and from Gowhatty passing up the south side of Jamuna valley, where, after striking Golaghât, it passes along the Dhoodur 'Alli,' through the very midst and heart of the 'tea tracts,' all lying far back from the main river (with which their communication is difficult, and thus leaving river steamers some play), the line leading on to Jaipur, which is destined to be the most important position eastward, and which will exist long after the site of Debroo is converted into sand churs by the encroachments of the main stream.

"I would therefore urge that both on the score of economy during famines, justice to a rapidly rising province, and also for the safety of this the most exposed frontier in India, the question of the railway to Assam be considered at as early a date as possible. The opinion is steadily gaining ground that the really profitable tea tracts are those alone where tea was found indigenous, and that Eastern Bengal, especially Assam, is the future tea locality, and the only permanent solution to the ever-present labor difficulty lies in the railway.

"With regard to the other obstacle to the development of the tea enterprise, the great difficulty of obtaining grants of waste land with anything like certainty or with cheapness by applicants, is proverbial.

"The action of the Colonial Government in this matter contrasts conspicuously with that of the Government of Bengal. At present in Canada settlers are actually given grants of 150 acres of good land in fee-simple for nothing, and in the other colonies terms are almost equally easy.

"While the discouragement of pure land speculation would redound to the credit of Government, the equally effectual discouragement of *bonâ fide* 'settlers' is much to be deplored, and it seems a pity there is no means of discriminating between them so far.

"By the action of the present Waste Land Rules the speculator indeed has usually the best chance, in consequence of the lots being put up to public auction. It would seem an injustice that those who, at considerable trouble and expense, search for and find a suitable piece of land, should not always on application be able to secure the same, and sale by public auction is at once a direct invitation for others to step in and supersede the original applicant.

"It is equally obvious that on a planter of long and sound experience putting a lot up, his chances of obtaining it are directly lessened in proportion to the value attached to his selection of a site.

"With speculators in the sale-room, a planter of long standing and good name will stand no chance of getting an allotment at any reasonable rate; and until public sales are superseded by private ones, this will remain incurable.

"Putting the most favorable interpretation possible on the sale by public auction, it is simply an attempt by Government to 'profit' at our expense.

"If it is wished to ascertain what obstacles exist to the fullest development of 'this important branch of production,' I would most respectfully suggest that on an application being made for a grant of waste land by a *bonâ fide* tea planter for purposes of tea-planting, such application be at once complied with if for a reasonable area, say 500 acres, and that after cutting the paths round the said grant, and raising earthen mounds at the angles, the same be at once handed over to the said applicant and deeds issued the moment the purchase-money (say Rs. 5* per acre) is paid down.

"There are plenty of qualified surveyors already in the province, and on that score no delay need be allowed to take place.

* I since hear land is at Rs. 2-8 upset price, not Rs. 5; but would willingly pay Rs. 5 for private sale.

"The payments on account of grants might well be confined to (say) four or five at the outside, and be made annually, or payment in full atonce if possible.

"If it is the wish of Government to assist rather than retard the allotments of waste land applied for, it is matter of legitimate surprise to us that in so many recent cases those wishes have conspicuously been belied by results. As matters stand we are forced to conclude that Government is opposed to assisting us.

"A collateral branch of the land question relates to how far Government would be prepared to permit pottah lands whereon there is *bonâ fide* tea cultivation to be converted into grants of (say) 100 acres. or more.

"It is usually supposed that what is suitable and just to Europeans should be equally suitable and just to natives; but I think the supposition is often very erroneous.

"Natives generally prefer short tenures; and it seems unfortunate that they do so, as indicating a less fixed and improvable interest in their holdings.

"It is equally notorious that Europeans prefer fee-simple grants to rent-paying tenure, and that estates on the latter are hardly worth more than half the market value of the former.

"Were Europeans holding tea gardens on rented lands enabled to commute to grants in fee-simple, a very general and inexpensive boon would be conferred, and not cause any class irritations or injustice."

Mr. W. A. Stoddard, Naphook Tea Estate.—"I would draw attention to the difficulties of obtaining grants of land, and that all intending cultivators wishing to obtain grants (say) to the extent of 500 acres be permitted at an upset price to the first applicant, unless better reasons for not granting the land exist than now do."

Mr. J. W. Donaldson, Manager, Sonarie, Kanoo, and Boorasallee Plantations.—"The waste land question is a point on which Government could give us great assistance.

"If lands could be got without having to go to the auction rooms, many many more acres would be taken up. After considerable trouble and pains we find a suitable piece of land; this has to be put up to auction, where it is bid up too far past our means, and we lose all the land, and our trouble goes for nothing: whereas if the whole thing was reduced to half the amount of work, and any tea planter wishing to take up (say) 500 or 600 acres to plant tea on, could get the same at (say) double the present upset price, namely, Rs. 5 per acre, and no auction, the waste land impediment would be met and overcome, and tea-planting would receive a fresh impetus."

Mr. L. Ingels, Namdang Tea Estate.—"The only liberal rules for the sales of waste lands are, I would submit, those of Lord Canning. Those till very lately, or at present in force, are illiberal and unfair in the extreme to purchasers.

"Waste lands applied for, whether located in the vicinity of, or at a distance from, villages ought, I would submit, to be primarily surveyed and demarcated by the Government without loss of time, and then

sold to the first applicant without reserve, at a fixed price per acre; the whole, or not less than one-tenth, of the purchase-money being paid down, at the option of the purchaser, at the time of sale: in the former case the purchaser receiving the title deeds of the property, and in the latter a receipt only for the sum paid, the land remaining hypothecated to Government for the balance, to be liquidated in ten years, with interest at ten per cent. per annum. So soon as the purchase-money with interest is paid, the purchaser ought without delay to receive the title deeds of his property; but in the event of the balance, or any part thereof, remaining unpaid to the Government at the expiration of that period, the land may, at the risk of the purchaser, or the party to whom at the time it belongs, be sold by public auction to the highest bidder, after due notice of sale given in the *Calcutta Gazette* and other public organs, and the money realized according to law. Should there be two or more applicants *at the same time for the same piece*, the land might be sold by auction to the highest bidder of those applicants only, the conditions of sale remaining as above. Plots of land might also, after the necessary survey and demarcation, be advertized for sale with a view to attract purchasers. It would be necessary for all applicants who seek out lands for themselves to furnish the exact boundaries of the plot desired, which would then be satisfactorily examined, surveyed, and demarcated prior to sale. Lately lands have been refused in fee-simple for the reason that they happen to be in the vicinity of villages, yet the same lands have been given to the same applicant on revenue pottah, showing by such a course a decided preference for the revenue pottah system, and thus throwing a grievous obstacle in the way of the planter, who, risking his capital, his life, his all, in an important national enterprise, seeks a far healthier title to his property than a mere revenue pottah. Had those lands not been taken up by the planter, the probability is they would lie waste for any number of years to come. That such is the case, is readily observable almost anywhere in this district. The proximity of the European planter to villages has, I would submit, been both a blessing and a benefit to the latter.

"The fixed price per acre I would recommend is mininum Rs. 2-8, maximum Rs. 5, to be regulated by the Collector assisted by planters, according to the nature of the land.

"The quantity of land to be sold in any one plot should, I submit, not exceed 1,000 acres in extent, nor be less than 100 acres.

"I would suggest the commutation of the revenue pottah lands into fee-simple at an equitable rate per acre in all cases where the said lands in any one plot are not less than 100 acres in extent.

"Heretofore it has so happened that estates in fee-simple, and grants under the old rules, have been and continued to be burthened with ryots' revenue-pottah lands within the boundaries. This, I submit, was a grievous mistake, and one that should, I think, be remedied. I would therefore recommend for consideration that such lands, when, being at any time thrown up by the ryots, they revert as it were to Government, be incorporated within the estate or grant and be commuted or paid for by the planter, as above suggested.

"Altogether I would suggest extended liberality in the interpretation of Waste Land Rules."

GOLAGHAT.

Captain Bluthwayt, Assistant Commissioner.—"Although several of the tea planters who have favored me with their views have gone very considerably beyond the limits of the subjects on which their opinion was asked, and have made use of the opportunity afforded as a peg on which to hang personal grievances, which could not possibly be inquired into and considered in a general report, such as that now called for, still I have deemed it advisable that the Commissioner should have an opportunity of seeing exactly what the planters themselves think, and for that reason I have transcribed in full five letters from planters in various positions and of different modes of thought, each of which may be taken as more or less typical of a class. There is the letter of the manager of the large company, who, putting aside petty details and excessive verbiage, states as briefly as possible what he considers to be the obstacles in way of the tea interest; there is that of the small proprietor, who takes the opportunity to express his dislike towards all officials; and that of the manager, who, with little to say, complains of what is unavoidable, and sighs for that which is out of his reach.

"As all the opinions, however, were those of Europeans, I wished, if possible, for those of an intelligent native gentleman, and finding one who is engaged in tea cultivation and the owner of a grant, endeavoured to extract his ideas on matters connected with the business in which he has embarked. I regret to say, however, that all I could learn was that he regarded the Government as his *má báp*, and that he had merely acquainted himself with its orders without considering anything more about them."

Mr. James Riddell, Superintendent, Jorehaut Company.—"There is no doubt that the difficulty of getting waste land on grant is great, and has much increased of late, and that unnecessary delay takes place in advertizing lands. I can give instances of 13 months and more elapsing between date of application and date of sale, and this from no fault on the part of the applicant. The last order as to boundary cutting issued by the Lieutenant-Governor, if carried out, will necessitate a thorough survey and submission of a perfectly accurate plan and field-book before any application will be entertained.

"In a case where the Deputy Commissioner is satisfied that land is wanted to open out or extend a tea garden, he might be authorized to give a grant at a fixed rate per acre, say Rs. 5. If he was not satisfied as to the *boná fide* nature of the application, the land might be sold by auction."

Mr. F. Stevenson, Manager and part Proprietor of the Halmorah Tea Estate.—"I herewith enclose the following memorandum of grievances with explanations:—

"*1st.*—The great interference on the part of Government with our imported labor.

"*2nd.*—The great bias shown by all Government officials (with few exceptions) against the tea planter and his interest.

"*3rd.*—The nearly impossibility of having any land question settled in the Seebsaugor district.

"4th.—The price of waste land, and the unfairness of the auction rules.

"5th.—The great want of consideration shown by Government in resuming old rule grants.

"6th.—The want of roads.

"7th.—The want of the telegraph wire.

"8th.—The inability shown by the police officers and their men in serving warrants, especially in Lower Assam.

"9th.—The utter want of interest shown by the higher officials of Assam in tea interests.

"*Explanations.*

"*1st.*—I think the time has now come when Government ought to trust more to the District Magistrate, and not be continually worrying the tea planter with new orders, returns, &c., as both the director and private proprietor look upon the cooly as a valuable animal. There is no doubt about it that if the cooly is not content, he will leave for another garden after his time is up, and the manager will be very soon called upon to show why he cannot keep coolies as others do. I therefore think the managers of gardens now, as a rule, take as much care of the coolies as the proprietors or directors could wish. I also think if agents were allowed to recruit, a much better class of coolies would be sent up to Assam. I have not recruited many coolies myself, but I think the Government rules are most vexatious, both to the cooly and planter, and, if strictly enforced, most vexatious to the Magistrate of the district.

"*2nd.*—Of the bias shown by the official against the planter, I have not much to say. I have always noticed that the tea planter is looked upon by the official as quite below him, and when he has a chance, will snub him in the most open manner. Again, the tea planter looks upon the official with the contempt he generally deserves (of course there are exceptions to every rule); but I think Government is to blame by the example it has shown.

"*3rd.*—The great difficulty we have in having any land matters settled in the Seebsaugor court is well known to every tea planter in Assam. I myself have gone up to Seebsaugor to look for a deed that had been registered in Calcutta, as the Deputy Commissioner said it was not there. On paying the rupee, the very first thing I saw was the deed I was in search of. Simply from want of courtesy on the part of the officer I had to ride 120 miles. I have been trying now for the last four years to get my land deeds settled, and I am about as far from it as I was when I began, and yet Government has received every pice that is due to it.

"*4th.*—The price of waste land at Rs. 5 per acre is very heavy, and I think the price should vary in different districts. For fine timber land I do not think Rs. 5 is much; but for mixed land, that is to say, grass and only a little forest, Rs. 2-8 per acre is quite enough. The rule of selling land by auction after the applicant has found the land and cut the boundaries is very unfair, and I think a fixed price should be settled, as it is in every other country.

"*5th.*—The great want of consideration on the part of Government in resuming old rule lands, and I believe the local authorities ought to look into affairs more. Torooal, grant No. 247, 300 acres applied for—quite 30 acres of tea cultivation when surveyed. This grant was put down in the list of resumed grants and entered as 600 acres applied for. This mistake I pointed out to the Assistant Commissioner, and was told to apply to the Deputy Commissioner, to whom I did apply, sending a copy of the map, and showing that only 300 acres had been applied for originally. In due course of time I received a reply saying that the order had been given for its being resumed; that is all the satisfaction I got. After having spent thousands of rupees on the place, it is seized without a word of explanation simply because the amlah that gave the report is believed, and I am not. I do not think Government intends to act so unjustly, and in course of time I hope to get satisfaction, and I have no doubt the officials that are to blame will be justly punished. This is the sort of treatment the planter generally expects from the official. If the applicant had been a native, the most searching inquiries would have been ordered. Again, in resuming lands the officials have not taken into consideration the sort of land in this district. Although I have 1,339 acres of grant land, I do not suppose if all the forest was taken together I would have 100 acres. I think Government should have taken into consideration the condition of the lands before making orders for the seizure of the lands.

"*6th.*—The want of roads is of course a great drawback, but I have no doubt the order passed by the Lieutenant-Governor making the money over to committees will prove a great success.

"*7th.*—The great want of quick communication with Calcutta is greatly felt by the planter, and no doubt the extension of the telegraph wire to Debrooghur would be a great boon to all classes in Assam.

"*8th.*—The inability shown by the officers of police is something wonderful. Cacharies come up from Lower Assam to work; they receive advances and give agreements; they then very often run away; warrants are granted, and although the names of the man's father, village, mouzah, are given, the police cannot bring them up, simply because the officer in charge of the police knows it is only a runaway garden cooly, and it is too much trouble to make inquiries.

"*9th.*—The want of interest shown by the Commissioner in the tea interest is nearly the cause of all the planter's grievances; and I think that if a man who took a little interest in his district was placed in Assam, both the planter and the cooly would have great cause to be satisfied. I have now been eight years in Assam, and the only improvement that has taken place is in the postal department; everything otherwise is about the same."

Mr. George Stocks, Manager, Brahmapootra Tea Company.—"With reference to the land question I have a few words to say. About a year and a half ago I applied for a grant of 150 acres for the express purpose of planting at least 50 acres with tea. This was in March 1871, and I fully expected to be in possession by the cold season of that year. I accordingly made large nurseries for the purpose of planting out at a year old; but great indeed was my disappointment when I found that month after month passed away, and one year after

my application had been made I was as far as ever from getting the grant. At last I heard that it was to be sold on the 1st April, and then thought that it would yet be in time to receive the plants I had so carefully reared for it; but again I was doomed to disappointment, as I heard that the sale had been put off by the Commissioner until the 17th June, and just too late to clear upon. At last I got the grant, but expect a great loss in removing two-year old plants instead of one-year old. Surely this matter might have been settled in less time than 15 months. On another occasion I applied for a grant also for the purpose of planting on, but because the ryots of a village objected I did not get it, although the nearest boundary line to their cultivation was more than 100 tars from it. Another reason for refusing the land was that the boundaries were not sufficiently defined. I gave them as clear as possible, considering there were three sides through heavy jungle and the fourth along the Government road, and had gone to the expense of cutting all the boundary lines. Now I hear no grants are to be given on any terms; no explanation is made, so that it looks very much as if the Government of the day intended to drive planters from the country, instead of encouraging an enterprise of such growing importance. In my opinion land should be sold to the first applicant at a fair price, say Rs. 5 per acre, or even for valuable land as high as Rs. 10 might be given, instead of putting it up to auction with the chance of having the land run up by some speculator who has not the slightest idea of opening out the country. I am sure no one would object to paying a little more for a piece of land provided he was certain of getting it, especially after he has had all the trouble of looking out for the land and cutting the boundaries, &c. In the event of Government persisting in putting the land up to the highest bidder, then the Government officer who puts the land up for sale ought to satisfy himself that each bidder is in a position to open out the land within a reasonable time. The present Lieutenant-Governor, I am sorry to say, has put a great many difficulties in the way of private individuals procuring land for tea-planting; in fact, if his late orders are carried out by his subordinates in their integrity, no person can ever dream of securing land in Assam on a permanent tenure. The ordinary tenure of the country is so insecure that no sensible person would make a large garden on land held under such rules. The following are some of the questions that have to be answered before the land can be put up to auction:—

" 'Is the land fit for the ordinary crops of the country, and is it likely to be taken up by the ryots within the next twenty years?'

" Regarding the former, it is simply a bar to tea-planting, as all the land is fit for the crops of Assam. We are all now anxiously waiting to know the result of the present Lieutenant-Governor's new rules, as land on fee-simple has been entirely suspended by His Honor, on what grounds is best known to himself. In conclusion, I would earnestly solicit the kind intervention of the Government of India, so as to enable planters procuring lands on equitable terms, and within a reasonable period; for unless we receive His Excellency's kind and liberal support I fear that the tea enterprise in this fertile province will greatly diminish in importance."

Mr. J. H. Kemble, Manager of the Land Mortgage Bank Gardens.—"I consider the contract law as it at present stands most unsatisfactory, and it falls particularly hard upon an employer when coolies from Durrung abscond from a garden. Coolies come up from that district under agreements generally for one year, and they all take advances; it is in consideration of the agreement that the advance is given. The advance is soon worked off, generally long before the agreement has expired, when, if a man chooses to abscond, and the pay due to him exceed the advance remaining against him, no remedy can be had save a civil suit, which, considering the man's house is perhaps 200 miles away, is no use at all. I believe the whole of the land lying at the foot of the hills between the Dhunsiri and the Deopani is reserved by Government. There is here some of the richest soil in the whole province for tea-planting. Of course if Government require the land no one can have anything to say against it; but it is rather galling to know one is debarred from taking up a grant of land in these parts, and at the same time to see the Meekir population taking it up on pottah, hacking and hewing at good timber, only to abandon the land in two years and cut away at a fresh place."

Mr. Kingsley, Manager, New Golaghat Tea Company.—"Replying to your communication dated 13th September, forwarding extract of one from the Secretary to the Government of India in the Agricultural Department, No. 74 of the 17th June last, I would beg to remark that it would have been better for many reasons had Mr. Hume's letter been in the hands of planters some time in July: weighty matters are put before us only now, and the district officers are hurried in the submission of their reports. This seems neither fair nor reasonable.

"I proceed to draw attention to what I consider a very unfair way of applying the resumption rules as to waste lands granted in Assam under the old rules.

"These rules distinctly provide that in *exceptional cases* the rules will not be considered to apply, and yet I do not know of one case in which any consideration has been shown. The exceptional clause has in fact been ignored, and therefore the intentions of the framers of the rules have not been attended to, and great and crying injustice has been done.

"I beg to specify my own case as one in point, and to appeal for justice in the matter. The facts are simple, and as follow:—

"Ten years ago I left remunerative employment in Calcutta to come to Assam, on being offered the management of certain gardens, on a salary and a half share, in a grant called Nambur, ten miles only from Golaghat. The grant was opened by my partner, a Mr. Spears, to the extent of 100 acres, and tea planted thereon. Mr. Spears was the monied partner, and I was to be the working partner. Mr. Spears went to England, and I carried on the garden for some time. I then heard that he was paralysed. Shortly after the people to whom he had sold his other properties were in difficulties; the great commercial panic of 1866 occurred, and many were ruined outright. To this day Mr. Spears has not recovered the use of his faculties, and only after a very severe struggle of years, carried on against almost overwhelming difficulties, did I find myself

in a position to open out the garden again, and I applied, when in Calcutta, to the Lieutenant-Governor to be allowed to do so. The matter was referred to the local authorities, who have their own reasons for not recommending my petition for sanction; but I feel I have been unrighteously dealt with in this matter, and others may very well be in the same position. If the Lieutenant-Governor does not see justice done, he willingly abnegates his power to the local officers, and to whom then can we appeal? I fearlessly state that the intentions of the framers of the rules have been ignored, and what are really and truly exceptional circumstances, beyond the control of mere man, when the Almighty sent affliction upon the land and hurled ruin upon so many proud firms and companies, are set aside as not worth a moment's consideration. I appeal to the Lieutenant-Governor for justice in this matter. It requires a statesman's breadth of view, and no quibbling of any kind upon the part of any one should for a moment be admitted. I also petition for a like broad and generous consideration of any other cases similar to mine.

"Singular to say, in my case the Deputy Commissioner referred me to the Forest Officer, and when I referred to him, he strongly recommended a compliance with my application on several valid grounds, as affecting his own department; but even these are all ignored.

"I reserved for the last portion of my letter what is doubtless the most important of all, as affecting tea interests, and such a retrograde step will never receive the sanction of Lord Northbrook, in reply to whose timely invitation I have the honor to pen these lines. The general impression is—and this impression is based on the assumption that waste lands cannot now be got—that the Lieutenant-Governor wishes to drive people to apply for rent-paying pottahs; but though these may be taken up to a certain restricted extent (and mainly because a delay of two years has been allowed in cases to occur where waste land had been applied for, and a beginning had to be made, or two years lost to a deluded man), it will be apparent that such holdings cannot satisfy the demands of a prudent foresight, and that properties based on them will be unsaleable in the English market, and those who planted on such holdings did so *relying on the good faith* of the Government of India, and with the certainty in view that they could always apply for, and eventually get, land under the Waste Land Rules *in fee-simple*, though it might suit the Lieutenant-Governor of a province to allow his district officers to take two years in cases to settle the most ordinary matters of the boundaries of a lot, and such like, which can always be disposed of in three months from *the date of an application*. If the Lieutenant-Governor took sufficient interest in any question, he would not allow two years, or anything like this time, to elapse before a settlement is made of it.

"The opinion, therefore, is strong and unmistakeable, that the Lieutenant-Governor has deliberately adopted a retrograde policy, and therefore a narrow policy, and one sure to be attended by disastrous results to the great industry in which Lord Northbrook takes such a well-founded interest. I need not enter into details; but if it is thought that land-jobbing and speculation should not be encouraged, I would state that nothing of this kind has come to my notice. The applications

are *bonâ fide* applications from planters or intending planters, and the areas applied for are so moderate as to convince any one that no mere jobbing or anything approaching it was intended; and, if necessary, certain restrictions as to area can be imposed which will fully meet the requirements of any theoretical objection on the above point.

"Villagers can never apply for 300 or 400 acres of land fit for tea. They want a little for their homesteads and low lands for their rice cultivation, and their homesteads are on land scarcely above the level of the *dhân* land. The Government might very well pass some rules as to grazing lands; each village should have some, so as to secure grass for their cattle, and to keep them off the roads, to which they now do great injury.

"I have no hesitation in declaring it as my firm and true opinion that a confirmation of the retrograde policy alluded to above will be the greatest blow that can ever be dealt out to tea-planting interests. This province itself will go back instead of forward; the area of tea-planting will be materially circumscribed; the amount of money circulated amongst the natives will not be in proportion to their growing wants; and therefore their power to meet the demands of the Revenue Collectors will, as before the days of tea-planting, be materially crippled. The increasing salubrity of the province will be checked, and funds from England, which would keep thousands and thousands of imported laborers in happy contentment on the tea gardens of India, and thousands and thousands of Assamese and other ryots in comparatively affluent circumstances (for not many years ago Re. 1-8 per mensem was all they could earn), *will to a certainty* be diverted to more favored lands, where, as in Australia and America, narrow restrictions are not imposed where the acquisition of land is concerned, and where the blighting influence of a narrow, and therefore unjust, policy holds no ground whereon to put its foot. For, believe me, a policy that is based on the unsound principle of discouraging English enterprise and the acquisition of permanent interest in land by Englishmen, Irishmen, and Scotchmen, will one day end in disaster to the British cause in India. I humbly, but most strongly, in the name of all that concerns that cause, and in the interests of all that concerns that cause, and in the interests of all planters that are and are to be, appeal to the Governor-General in Council never by word or deed to sanction a policy which, if carried out, will surely be the death-warrant of all that is hopeful in the future of this great land."

Captain Blathwayt rusumes :—"The general complaints are—

"*1st.*—The difficulty in obtaining grants of land.

"*2nd.*—The resumption of grants.

"With respect to the first, I confess I think the planter labors under great difficulties, and several cases have come under my own notice. For my own part I should be glad to see all alienation of land on the part of the Government stopped, believing as I do that it is the land to which the Government must look for the future augmentation of its revenue, and every acre of which parted with is so much capital resigned; but I think the Government might meet the wishes of the planter and still retain its right to assess the land on some future day.

"Let the land be given as under the old rules, only fix a date on which the rent shall be, not six annas an acre, but the same as ordinary rent-paying land in the same district. Again, I would not give large tracts: when a planter wants a piece of land, let him state distinctly what he wants it for, whether for planting tea, for making charcoal, for timber, or as the case may be. Then one of the local officers should see the land applied for, and if he considered it was really required for the purpose stated, let the Deputy Commissioner have the power to make it over to him on the payment of a fixed sum, which should vary, according as the land was grass or forest or mere jungle. But, pending such time as some definite rules are framed, I would still allow small, and only small, areas to be sold in fee-simple, at a fixed price, so that the land might go to the man really wanting it, and not to a speculating outsider.

"The second complaint is the resumption of grants, and here I quite disagree with what the planters say. Land was given them on certain conditions, and those conditions were not fulfilled. In every single case of resumption doubtless the person from whom the land was resumed would be able to show several, to him valid, reasons why the resumption should not take place. In this sub-division double the amount really wanted for tea was parted with by Government, and even now, in spite of resumptions, many hold land of no present use to them, but which at some future day—which it is to be hoped many now living may live to see, when a railroad runs through the heart of Assam—Government may find large tracts of land paying a large and constantly increasing revenue to the owners (shareholders in England very likely), not a pice of which it can itself touch in order to help and defray its growing expenditure."

JOREHAUT.

Mr. Carnegy, Assistant Commissioner.—"I think that some relaxation in the rules for granting waste land should be made. If land is to be given in fee-simple, it would, I think, be fairer to fix a price at which the land should be given than to put it up to auction, where the man who has been at the trouble and expense of having the land surveyed, and who really intends to make a *boná fide* tea garden, may be outbidden by any speculator. Of course in one sense the land is worth what it will fetch, but practically this is not always the case; and as a matter of fact I believe that nearly all the land which was sold at the highest prices in former days has been either thrown up or resold at a very great reduction of price by the auction purchasers. The district officers ought to know when land is wanted for a *boná fide* garden."

GATONGA.

Mr. Raban.—"The most serious obstacle, however, in the way of the development and prosperity of tea cultivation, is the difficulty of getting land. At present it is impossible to get an acre of land in Assam in fee-simple. Within the last 18 months I have applied for three grants unsuccessfully; two were refused, and one, after being advertized for sale in the *Calcutta Gazette*, was withdrawn, and the sale cancelled without any reason being assigned."

BORHOLLA.

Mr. Sinclair.—" No consideration whatever has been shown those who have been ruined by the unfair application of resumption rules to waste lands in Assam; and even now, were Government so disposed, justice could be meted out to those who have spent thousands in clearing and making tea gardens, which have so ruthlessly been taken away from them, by making restitution in returning them their property.

" Looking at the broad or statesmanlike view which Lord Canning, our late lamented Governor-General, took of this important matter, what a contrast do we find to the narrow policy adopted by our present Lieutenant-Governor; for he seems bent on abolishing this privilege altogether by throwing obstacles in the way of all applicants, for now-a-days district officers, no doubt acting in accordance with his instructions, will not give away any grants that are reported by mouzadars to have either valuable timber on them or are likely to be occupied by villagers for the next 20 years, as if these men have ever been known to clear forest land for themselves, all that they need being low paddy land, and those unfit for the cultivation of tea. So that the granting of waste lands under such circumstances becomes a myth; and I would ask where, in future, is the poor planter to seek for wood, for his charcoal, or timber for building purposes? This then would inevitably be the means of causing a death-blow to this grand and rising enterprise, and then adieu to opening out and developing the resources of this productive country.

" I would therefore humbly and deferentially, in the interests of planters, appeal to the Governor-General to avert this impending evil, and thus save the country from again lapsing into its former wild state, and the people from prosperity to abject want, and perhaps slavery."

LUCKIMPORE.

Major W. S. Clarke, Deputy Commissioner.—" With reference to the question of the obstacles existing to the fullest development of the tea industry, I quote the suggestions and observations of the several planters whose communications have been received. Among them are the leading planters of this district, and it may be presumed the opinions offered by them prevail pretty generally.

" Mr. Davidson, Superintendent of the Upper Assam Company, writes :—' As to the obstacles existing to the fullest development of this important branch of industry, they would in my opinion be very slight if everywhere the district authorities and planters would only meet each other in an accommodating, unantagonistic spirit on all subjects connected with the good of tea-planting and the progress of the province generally. I deprecate strongly, on principle, all special legislation, or much interference of any sort even of a fostering character, from the best-intentioned Government in the world.

" ' What all great *sound* mercantile undertakings want is simply to be left to themselves, subject only to the ordinary laws that govern the entire country.'

"Mr. Adolph Knoop, Superintendent of the Chubwa Company, complains that planters have but little power over their imported

laborers, and that the support of the Magistrate is required to punish severely laborers who wilfully fail to fulfil their contracts; also the difficulties in the way of obtaining grants of land. He advocates the abolition of sale of lands by public auction, which induces native speculators to bid the planter up on the chance of making something by a future private sale, and suggests that land should be available to the applicant for it, at a fixed rate, when it was once ascertained that no right, or claim, or objection to the land existed.

"Mr. William Warren, superintending the estates belonging to Warren Brothers, writes:—'As regards any obstacles that may exist to the detriment of the full development of the tea enterprise, we would solicit attention to the general cry of complaint from all parts of the province of the great difficulty that exists in procuring waste lands, and this in the face of vast fertile tracts lying idle and unused; and the reasons given for refusal are of such a nature as to preclude the possibility of obtaining land advantageously situated or adapted for prosecuting new extensions on; and with this policy pursued, it cannot but tend to greatly discourage tea-planting generally.'

"Mr. Warren advocates extension of period of contract to five years, same as exists for the West Indies, which he states would prove equally advantageous to employer and laborer; that the present three years' contract practically only gives two years' good work from each newly imported laborer. Mr. Warren embraces in this proposition the increase of wages after three years to an amount equal to the pay for which a cooly ordinarily re-engages.

"Mr. Gordon Shaw, of Tullup, states that 'the chief obstacles which exist in his opinion are the difficulties thrown in the way of obtaining grants of land and over-interference on the part of Government with regard to the importation and management of labor.' With regard to the former he states 'it requires a residence of two years in Assam to obtain land and open out a tea garden, and then only after a great deal of fighting, trouble, and expense; that the mouzadars are desirous of preventing Europeans from settling down in their mouzas, and that the questions put them in regard to the lands simply suggest ways by which the land may be refused.'

"Mr. Shaw goes on to say that 'under such an uncertain tenure as the ordinary cultivation pottah, not one-tenth of the land would be taken up as under the fee-simple rules, and this is the only alternative where difficulties exist to the grant being made. He attributes the ability to double the land revenue rates in 1868-69 to the wealth thrown into the province by the planters.' He urges that a cultivated country is always more profitable to the Government than an uncultivated one, and that if gardens were opened out in the centre of wide tracts of forests, where there were no villages, the probability is that Government would step in and order the gardens to be shut up as unfit for human habitation, &c. He concludes by saying 'the policy is a false one if it be desirous to further the progress of tea cultivation in Assam.'

"With reference to Government interference in regard to laborers, Mr. Shaw suggests that 'greater facilities should be given for recruiting by garden-sirdars; that the number allowed to be recruited by

them should be increased, and that generally they should be less hampered by rules; that, if desired, they should be allowed to travel to Assam by land *viâ* Dhoobree, instead of going round by Calcutta, where there is reason often to fear that disease is engendered; that interference in the management of laborers is creative of insubordination; that the cooly looks upon the Magistrate as his defender against his employer; that if it be necessary to have an Inspector of Laborers any longer, his duties be confined to sanitary questions and house accommodation, unless he sees fit to take notice of other matters.'

"Mr. Shaw urges that under Sections 102 and 103 of Act II of 1870, the employer is required to produce a runaway cooly at the nearest police station and lay a charge against him; that this is inconvenient; and that in case of the employer not wishing to prosecute a cooly, or the cooly promising good behaviour, he should have the option of making him over, of prosecuting him, or passing over his offence, or otherwise; that Honorary Magistrates should be appointed in outlying localities for the disposal of these petty cases; that, if convicted and imprisoned, the cooly would in jail come in contact with the worst characters, who would put evil into his head, and that such punishment would not have the deterrent effect that fine and extra tasks, apart from other laborers, inflicted at the garden by the employer, would have on him; that prosecutions to planters at a distance are very costly and troublesome.

"Mr. Shaw also urges the better maintenance of existing roads, the construction of new roads, and the making more navigable such streams as are at present full of snags and obstruction.

"Mr. Minto, who has lately returned after a long absence to Assam, states that a want of sufficient labor and of a good class of laborers is a great obstacle at present. He urges a stricter supervision in Calcutta of the class of laborers sent up to Assam. He is of opinion that agreements ought to run for five years, and that an advance of one rupee on the rate of wages should be made in the fourth year of service, and one rupee again in the fifth year. He states that the question of wages is not of importance compared with the obtaining of more security, and of an equivalent for the original cost of importation, and the services of acclimatized men and skilled laborers. Mr. Minto lays great stress on this, which he urges would aid much the development of the tea industry. He states that term-expired coolies are so difficult to bring to ordinary terms, and will often only agree to do certain work, that the more wealthy companies often prefer to let them go and again to import labor. Mr. Minto alludes also to the difficulty he hears of in obtaining lands by planters, but supposes that the views of Government will soon be known, and any temporary difficulties removed.

"The badness of the roads also is stated to be a great obstacle to the progress generally of the province. He mentions that the main road (the Jaipúr road) to his factory at Tingrai is for a mile in length often 6 and 8 feet under water, and its normal condition in the rains is 2 feet under water, and that the road otherwise in its whole length, what with jungle or mud, is very bad.

"Mr. Minto urges that before mortality rates on a garden are made cause for its being closed as unfit for human habitation, the rate of

mortality among the class of persons among whom deaths occur in their own country should be ascertained.

"He says it may equally be a question of the unsuitableness of the class of laborers for tea factory work, as of the unsuitableness of the garden as a place for human habitation.

"Mr. Minto takes exception to any of the duties of the Inspector of Laborers being performed by any one but him, and mentions the prosecution of an inquiry in one of his gardens by the Police Inspector of Jaipúr. He admits, however, that in this case there were matters requiring attention, which, had he been in health, he however goes on to say, would never have existed for a day.

"He objects strongly, however, and states his intention to resist to the utmost the ordering the police into a garden to inquire into any alleged grievance on the part of laborers without the manager or employer being made aware of the intended inspection.

"Mr. Minto writes: 'One of the great influences to tea-planting, and one that will for years very largely affect it, is the relation of the heads of districts to those engaged in tea. A broad, liberal, and comprehensive interpretation of the legislature for the province is always sure to commend itself to all reasoning men; while, on the contrary, a too rigid adherence to forms, and too great an anxiety to carry out to the letter the law, and sometimes straining it, is sure to embitter relations between the governors and governed.'

"He advocates the administration of the law in a large spirit of sympathy to those who, at the risk of life and health, are endeavouring, and have already succeeded, in establishing what promises to be the 'nucleus' of the largest interest in India for the future.

"The remarks made by the only two planters who have furnished any reply to the Assistant Commissioner in charge of the North Luckimpore sub-division have no special importance, comprising shortly the unadvisability of interference with the laborers and the want of roads in the sub-division. One of these gentlemen suggests also that proper mookhtears should be appointed by Government for the proper conduct of business, and that the sale of lands by auction be put a stop to.

"I will now proceed shortly to discuss the points raised by the planters.

"There is no reason for any antagonism on the part of a district officer towards the planters beyond what must necessarily exist between the district officer as agent for the disposal of lands and the purchaser; the terms of seller not being perfectly tasteful to the buyer, and the buyer pressing matters beyond the competence of the agent for the sale of the lands to deal with. Refusals and delays probably create an apparent antagonism, but it is only an apparent one. Very few planters understand business, and their unbusinesslike ways cause to themselves endless trouble. They are impatient of forms and procedure, become vexed by claims or objections, forgetting that it is quite unworthwhile to acquire lands until every single objection or claim is fully disposed of.

"Again, any officer who administers Act II of 1870 and causes its provisions to be strictly carried out, acquires immediate unpopularity. By very many the laws immediately applying to their interests are

not known, or very indifferently understood; and interference under the provisions of the law are unlooked for, and are not viewed by them in a fair light. They forget that there is no option, and that a district officer is the paid servant of Government appointed *to carry out its laws*. It may be involuntary, but there is no doubt that such is the case. There is a feeling that the planters should be given way to. His coming to the country means progress and civilization; he should get his lands speedily and without objection; there should be no interference with his labor and his management, and it is quite forgotten by him that very important interests, viz. those of the people of the country, and the people of the parts of India from which he brings labor to his gardens, must necessarily militate to some extent with his own.

"Any bitterness or antagonism on the part of a district officer is, I think, an unfounded cause of complaint. There may be bitterness on the part of the planters; but as business must necessarily be done in a businesslike way—and it is often attempted to be done in an extremely unbusinesslike way—I really think the extra trouble caused to district officers would rather give them cause for complaint. But the fact is, planters have their sympathy, and the great drawback they labor under in not having any one on the spot to counsel or advise them, and to do their business for them, is fully recognized, and they receive much assistance consequently. Let them compare the tedious procedure in business connected with transfers and purchases of lands and estates where lawyers are engaged with their own difficulties in a mofussil district, they will find that they have not much to complain of, or whatever cause of complaint exists, is owing either to omissions on their own part, or to circumstances over which a district officer has no control.

"Government interference in the matter of imported labor is one which has had full discussion, and its necessity in regard to labor imported from other districts in India has long ago been determined.

"Mr. Knoop's complaint that laborers who wilfully fail to fulfil their contracts should be severely punished, is a question in regard to which the law probably requires amendment. The obstinate and persistent refusal to do more than (say) half-a-day's work on the part of idle coolies doubtless subjects employers to loss, for though such men draw less wages, they are housed and otherwise provided for, and cost as much to import as good hands, and are, under their agreements, entitled to their discharge at the end of their three years' term. Such idleness cannot be punished under the law, which provides for punishment of unlawful absences from work and desertions only.

"The abolition of the sale of lands by auction is laid a good deal of stress on. It does seem hard that a person who has discovered the very plot of land to suit him should run the chance of being run up by speculators in land, who, trusting to the land being valuable and fit for tea, buy it, pay down one-tenth of the purchase-money, and afterwards make a good thing out of it by sale to the applicant himself, or to some other person. Such speculators (they are not common now, but the thing was often done a few years back,) have the advantage of the person whose application is *bonâ fide*, for they run the risk of the loss of the one-tenth value paid down, never intending either to

make a garden, or, if they fail to sell at a profit, to pay the balance of the purchase-money, but allow the *grant to be resold;* and this is taken in full of all demands against them. Under such circumstances, so long as he is able to pay down the one-tenth value, it is not of much importance to him at what rate the land is sold; where, on the other hand, the applicant is often a person to whom the rate at which the land is obtainable by him is everything, and means the ability or non-ability to undertake the making of a garden, and he is only ready to bid up to a certain price. The fact is, the disposal of lands by public sale would seem rather to be part of a scheme for the disposal of tracts of land fitted for tea, surveyed, and divided into lots, and duly notified as available to the public on the terms that any such tract applied for would be put up to public sale at a certain time after application. Here there would be selected tracts reserved especially for the purpose, giving persons wishing to acquire land no trouble, but to make up his mind which of the lots available he would apply for. In such case, at any rate, the disappointment which now may occur to persons who after considerable time and trouble have selected a plot which they think would suit them, and the discovery of which they take credit for, would not exist. However, the rules regarding the sales of lands were applied to lands selected by intending purchasers themselves, and as a fact at the present time there is not much competition, but there may be a gain in future years if the increased use of machinery, an unexpected supply of labour, or other reasons, give an impulse to the manufacture. This question, however, is also before the Government.

"Mr. Warren, as also Mr. Minto, lays much stress on the question of lengthened terms for original contracts. This question has been much discussed, and the Government have heard all the arguments *pro* and *con.*

"Mr. Shaw notices the difficulty of obtaining land, and the unsatisfactory tenure of land under ordinary pottah. I do not think the tenure on pottah is understood by planters here, or by their men of business in Calcutta. Though the Government is the proprietor of all lands in Assam, and though lands may be resumed at will, by payment of compensation for houses, tenements, crops, orchards, tea gardens, and the like, a person holding a pottah for land on which he had made a fine tea garden would, in the case of the land being required for Government purposes (and it would only be taken up if it were urgently and positively required) be entitled to full compensation for the value of his garden. It is not likely that any such expenditure would unnecessarily be incurred, or, if incurred, that the Government would fail to give the fullest compensation and show the greatest consideration to the planter. Besides, if a planter chose to settle with the Government for ten years, under the rules he gets a proprietary, hereditary, and transferable right in the land. What better title could he have, saving a title which exempted him entirely from payment of revenue? The undue increase of revenue on the land in years to come is an unreasonable fear to entertain.

"Mr. Shaw's desire to see more liberty given to garden sirdars and to have less interference with the management of labor, which, he

states, is creative of insubordination, are both matters to which much consideration has been given, and it is not probable the law on these points will be altered.

"With reference to the obligation to give up runaway coolies who have been apprehended at the nearest police station, with a view to their prosecution on a formal charge, and which results in some inconvenience to those employers who would wish merely to bring back the runaways to their work, I see nothing to be done but the bringing justice nearer to them by the officers of sub-divisions; the law could not certainly be advantageously altered, but the inconvenience caused by prosecuting runaways would be done away with, or reduced to a minimum."

F.—Other Matters Worthy of Notice.

Kamroop.

Major W. H. J. Lance, Officiating Deputy Commissioner.—"The greatest obstacle to the development of the trade is undoubtedly the important want of easy and rapid communication with the heart of the empire; the advantages lost for want of this are so obvious, that it would be waste of time to point them out here, whilst the remedy is as evident."

Durrung.

Major J. M. Graham, Deputy Commissioner.—"Roads are a great subject of complaint, and with some cause; at present they can be called little better than fair-weather roads, as every rainy season the destruction of wooden bridges by the erratic movements of the hill streams is great. Often it is not the bridge alone which goes, but, as happened this year, hundreds of yards of embankment; and it is really not easy to deal with streams which perhaps at one time come from one direction, and a month or two after from perhaps exactly the opposite.

"This year's operations of the Road Committee will show the general public how far our means will go, and if they are inadequate, further application will be made.

"The difficulty of procuring money is also a source of complaint.

Remittances.

This treasury is a surplus one, and drafts on it to a certain amount can be had in Calcutta at one per cent., which may be a consideration to Government; but for my own part I should prefer seeing these drafts abolished and the circulation of notes more freely encouraged; but having no pretensions to be a financier, my views on this matter may be entirely wrong."

Mungledye.

Captain M. O. Boyd, Assistant Commissioner.—"There is certainly no lack of roads in this sub-division.

The inadequacy of the allotments for the repairs of roads and bridges.

The difficulty of keeping them open throughout the year lies in the fact that the country being intersected with streams, the number of temporary bridges which have to be kept up is very great. Were the allotments larger, the money could be very profitably expended in building stronger and more durable bridges than is now practicable.

"It would be undoubtedly advantageous to the planter did greater facilities exist for obtaining silver. The annual receipts in silver at the sub-treasury amount to about Rs. 2,50,000, and the disbursements to about Rs. 1,00,000. This leaves a balance of about Rs. 1,50,000 of silver, of which the whole could without difficulty be disposed of to planters and native merchants by encashment of notes. The necessity of supplying the sudder treasury and sending remittances to the Khasi Hills at present renders this impossible."

Remittances.

NOWGONG.

Major Sherer, Deputy Commissioner.—"I am given to understand that the present season has been deemed a fair season for tea operations, and a very successful one. The estates in operation are doing well, and are carefully and prudently managed. The coolies are well cared for, and I may say contented."

Mr. T. W. Greaves, Manager, Upper Assam Tea Company.—"Nowgong being perhaps the worst wooded district in Assam, it is a matter of much mortification to planters that Meekirs and other tribes should be allowed to destroy what little timber there is. Year by year large hills are deliberately denuded by them for the purpose of raising a crop or two of cotton, and then as deliberately abandoned. The Meekirs are a wandering tribe, and never remain more than two years in the same spot. A more stringent policy towards these tribes would benefit the planting interest every way. They are not averse to garden labor, and would probably take to it much more largely were some restriction placed upon the wholesale destruction that it is now permitted them to carry on; besides which there would remain some hope to the planter that when his present timber is exhausted, the acquirement of a new piece of forest land may not be impossible."

SEEBSAUGOR.

Major A. E. Campbell, Deputy Commissioner.—"There is one more subject which planters also complain of, and that is good road communication. There is no doubt that the want of the province is a good road to connect Assam with Bengal. If such a road existed, I think a good deal of the labor-difficulty would vanish, and that laborers would come up to Assam for employment of their own accord.

"At any rate, I think if a good road existed, it would be better for coolies to travel by land than to come up by steamer, as they do at present, and generally experience a good deal of sickness on board.

"Mr. Fisher attributes the sickness on board steamers to the high feeding coolies get, and I dare say it has a good deal to do with it, and deserves attention."

Mr. W. A. Stoddard, Naphook Tea Estate.—"In many gardens there is the grievance (and a most intolerable one) of cattle trespass."

Mr. L. Ingels, Namdang Tea Estate.—"With regard to importation of labor, I would, as a matter of necessity, and one affording great facilities, suggest the formation of a first-class grand trunk road into Assam. The means of communication once thoroughly opened and

established, I am presuaded labor will flow spontaneously and freely into Assam from more parts of India than one.

"Cattle trespass is another source of loss. In most cases in this district it is impossible during the rains to have cattle impounded on account of the swollen state of the rivers, setting aside loss of money and labor that must result in sending them to the nearest pounds; and the pounds are few and far between. As a rule, villagers do not much mind paying the small penalty levied, and the cattle in consequence return to their owners to commit fresh depredations, to be, if possible, again impounded and released as before. Where buffaloes are concerned, human life is also endangered. In cattle trespass, as in cases of breach of contract, the different effect of the law is simply nothing to an Assamese. Under the circumstances the planter is forced to sustain his losses as best he may, or to protect himself by shooting or otherwise destroying the cattle, by which course he can only subject himself to a criminal prosecution. I would therefore suggest that measures be devised to put an end to cattle trespass.

"Impressment by Government officers of local laborers under engagement to factories is also a source of loss. If carriage and conveyance be required, as they must be from time to time for Government purposes, it is easy for Government to maintain a number of carts, cattle, and elephants, and an adequate beldar establishment. There are, I think, few of the class of local laborers in this district that are not under contract to some garden or other, and this circumstance must, I apprehend, be known to Government officers. At any rate, I think it would be the exception to the rule if in a batch of impressed coolies some few were not found to be under contract. When, therefore, a public officer impresses laborers, he does a vast deal more. He simply, by virtue of the authority vested in him, compels the laborer to break his contract with his employer, and in this he would appear to be supported by the Government, for he has no other means at his disposal of administering to his necessities. But to proceed: the laborer's contract being broken, his employer resolves to enter a prosecution for a breach of contract. Whom is he to prosecute? Who is to be defendant in this case, where there is, it would appear, combined action? There is yet another consideration in connection with the subject. Labor ought, I submit, to be free, and not forced, except in times of absolute need and necessity to the State. Does that crisis now exist?"

Golaghat.

Mr. Kingsley, Manager, New Golaghat Company.—"In a letter which I wrote some years ago, when I was in Jorehaut, I drew attention to the want of a good trunk road into Assam, by which coolies could come up to seek employment themselves on tea plantations. They do now in small numbers, but I believe that much has not been done to secure this important object, and a report ought, I think, to be submitted by the Public Works Department showing what progress has been made, and what has retarded the speedy completion of a good trunk road.

"The communications in the district are now in the hands of committees; and whatever favors the keeping of them in

proper repair, and their extension where necessary, helps towards the development of the province, not only as regards tea, but all produce. The funds should be ample for this purpose, and the Commissioner of Assam should once a year traverse the principal roads, visit the stations, and see with his own eyes what the province entrusted to his charge really needs. Unless this is done the progress can never be really satisfactory, and many questions cannot be taken into consideration without a possession of that minute and full knowledge which ensures a sound judgment being formed upon them. Such a tour could easily be undertaken in the cold season, and with the most beneficial results to the people of the province.

"The way in which roads are transferred from the district officers to the Public Works Department, and then by the latter to the former, and then again by the former to the latter, would cause a smile, did not the loose way in which this branch of work seems to be dealt with involve a great deal of useless correspondence, and lead to little being effected; for what can be expected, either as to progress or interest in one's work, when neither a district officer nor a Public Works engineer can tell that he will have the superintendence of a road for more than six months? Such a loose and bad system should never be tolerated for a moment.

"When travelling to Seebsaugor a few years ago, I suddenly felt the want of rest-houses, provided in nearly all parts of India, and I pointed out this want to Major Clarke, then the Deputy Commissioner. That officer at once issued orders for the erection of such houses at all the ghauts and on each side of each river to accommodate both man and beast. These should be regularly kept up, and always be in a good state of repair.

"The Government in the old days ran its own steamers to Assam, and, in accordance with its policy on such subjects, withdrew them when a public company was prepared to perform the duty under certain guarantees. Now two rival companies occupy the line, and except that they are not punctual as to date of starting, and some of the vessels are not powerful enough to contend with the Brahmapootra in the rains, hence causing delay, the work they have to do is performed pretty satisfactorily. Still great room for improvement exists, and it is to be hoped that the companies now working will in their own interests soon perceive this, as there may be some truth in the statement which lately appeared in the *Englishman* newspaper, to the effect that Government soon intended starting vessels of its own on the Brahmapootra by way of experiment, if for nothing else."

Mr. Riddell.—"Government should encourage the opening out of roads, and might bear (say) half the expense of doing so."

JOREHAUT.

Mr. Raban, Gantoonga Tea Estate.—"I would suggest that roads be improved. Although a great deal has been done in this direction during the last few years, there is plenty of room for improvement; there are several very good roads in Assam, but there are many that are almost impassable in the rains."

BORHOLLA.

Mr. Sinclair.—"I cannot but pass censure on this road of Assam, which was in much better order in the Rajah's time, and which, if only properly attended to by the Public Works Department, may be the means of inducing men to come up of their own accord for service in Assam. The Commissioner, or some responsible Government official, should annually, in the cold season, travel by land from Gowhatty to Debrooghur and see matters as they exist. Were such the case, we should soon, no doubt, have no cause of complaint with regard to this road."

Grand Trunk Road.

LUCKIMPORE.

Major W. S. Clarke, Deputy Commissioner.—"The question of roads is a very important one, and every officer who has been employed in Assam will know the difficulty of dealing with this subject. The roads in Assam are the worst, and probably the most expensive to construct and maintain, that could possibly be; they are embankments requiring a special and very large amount of waterway, which means expensive and extensive bridging, and when constructed, if used by any but foot passengers, in a few days the surface is so bad as to be nearly impracticable to man or beast. This state of course only refers to about nine months of the year. In the three remaining months the waters temporarily recede, and the whole country of course becomes more practicable.

"The only road which will open up the province, and with it the tea-plantations, will be, if ever it be constructed, a main line of railway throughout the length of the valley. With such a line, and the numerous streams intersecting it, which could be used in conjunction with it, the country would really be opened out. Metalled roads are out of the question, and even if made, they would be useless, unless well above flood level and with sufficient waterway to prevent the giving way of the embankments. It is a question, with such embankments made, whether it would not be more advantageous at once to lay down rails. Metalling roads in Assam would be a most costly work.

"Mr. Minto's objection to the conduct of any inquiries on a garden except by the Inspector of Laborers is of course inadmissible. The appointment of a special Inspector of Gardens does not at all interfere with the powers of the magisterial and police authorities to make any and all such inquiries as may appear necessary on complaints made."

NORTH LUCKIMPORE.

Captain A. N. Phillips, Assistant Commissioner.—"There is good foundation for Mr. Stewart's complaint of the state of the sub-divisional roads. There is no part of the sub-division that I am unacquainted with, for I have been over it in every direction, and I know it to be a fact that there is not a part of it ten miles from the station that can be reached in the rainy season on horseback; while some of the gardens are more than twenty miles from the station, and but few of the planters have elephants. But it is not only in the rains that the roads are impassable for horses. During my last cold

weather tour I was unable to use a pony except quite near the station, and even when travelling on an elephant I found the public road so dangerous in places that I avoided it and took circuitous routes instead, through *pathars* and villages. The fact is, it would take an immense sum of money to put these roads in anything like perfect order. The road, for example, the disrepair of which more nearly affects Mr. Stewart, from its proximity to his gardens, (the Runga Nuddee road,) is the main line of communication through Assam on the north bank of the Brahmapootra. It extends for some forty miles through this sub-division, and it would certainly take Rs. 300 per mile, or a lump sum of Rs. 1,200, to put it in thorough repair. My allotment, however, for all the roads for the present year amounts to Rs. 3,790 only. The question then seems to be (and on this of course I offer no opinion), is the particular line of country of sufficient importance to justify so large an outlay on a single road? The same remarks apply more or less to all the sub-divisional roads. If it should be found feasible to put all of these into complete repair, tea-planting in this direction would undoubtedly be much facilitated."

The above is the substance of the reports received from the district officers and leading tea-planters in the province. I have added thereto a brief history of tea-planting, drawn up from the records of my office with the assistance of Mr. A. C. Campbell, now in charge of Burpettah sub-division, but who was my Personal Assistant during that eventful period in tea-planting which lasted from 1863 to 1868.

Six statements illustrative of the state of tea culture in the several districts are also appended.

The original reports from the district officers and others are also herewith submitted, in case the Government should like to refer to any of them, and I shall feel much obliged by their being returned to me when no longer required.

Note by Secretary to Government.

As Colonel Hopkinson's letter contains very full extracts from the letters of Assam Government officers and of Assam tea-planters, it has not been thought necessary to reprint those letters *in extenso* in the present volume.

APPENDIX A.

Rules for the grant of Waste Lands in Assam, sanctioned under the orders of Government dated 6th March 1838.

Government orders No. 497, dated 6th March 1838, paragraph 3.

RULE I.—That it be publicly proclaimed that no person will be allowed any exemption from paying the full revenue for waste lands broken up without the sanction of the Collector, given either in the form of a grant under this scheme, or in whatever other manner the Commissioner may determine that grants for petty patches of land, and for grass wastes of the nature indicated in exception 2 to Rule II, may be given by the Collector to actual cultivators.

Paragraphs 4 and 5.

RULE II.—That no grant for agricultural purposes on the advantageous terms which it is proposed to authorize be made of a less extent than one hundred English acres, nor of a greater extent then ten thousand English acres.

EXCEPTIONS.

Government orders No. 497, dated 6th March 1838, paragraph 4.

1. Petty patches situated within the limits of cultivated lands may be granted by Collectors to actual cultivators.—See Rule I.

Government orders No. 497, dated 6th March 1838, paragraph 4, and Government orders No. 1134, dated 9th August 1836, paragraph 9.

2. Grass wastes lying among fields already under cultivation, and hence regarded as appertaining (subject to the payment of revenue when brought under tillage) to the adjacent villages, may be granted at the discretion of the local authorities.

Government orders No. 497, dated 6th March 1838, paragraph 6.

RULE III.—That no grant be made until the applicant shall satisfy the Collector that he is possessed of capital in money, grain, or agricultural stock, or implements, to the extent of Rs. 3 per acre.

Government orders No. 497, dated 6th March 1838, paragraphs 7 and 8.

RULE IV.—That not more than one-eighth of the wastes in any pergunnah be granted away in any one year without the special sanction of the Sudder Board of Revenue, to be given on sufficient ground shown.

Government orders No. 497, dated 6th March 1838, paragraph 9.

RULE V.—That no second grant be made to any individual who has failed to perform the conditions of the first grant, unless he be able to satisfy the Commissioner that the failure was owing to circumstances beyond his control.

Government orders No. 497, dated 6th March 1838, paragraph 14.

Note.—These rules are not at present to be in force in pergunnahs held by the chowdries on long leases.

Description of lands, and term of rent-free tenure.

Board's No. 278, dated 25th July 1836, paragraph 3.

1*st*.—Forest lands to be granted for a term of 20 years rent-free.

Board's No. 278, dated 25th July 1836, paragraph 3.
Government orders No. 1134, dated 9th August 1836, paragraph 2.
Ditto ditto.

Government order No. 497, dated 6th March 1838, paragraph 16.

2*nd.*—Reed and high grass wastes (Null and Kugra) to be granted for a term of 10 years rent-free.

Grass wastes to be granted for a term of five years rent-free.

Note.—This description shall not be held to include lands denominated *puteet rooput,* which shall be granted rent-free for a term of two years only.

Conditions relative to a grant of land, term of rent-free tenure, and mode and manner of assessment after the expiration of rent-free holding.

For 5 years; for 10 years; for 20 years.
5—10.

1*st.*—The entire grant to be held rent-free for a period of 20 years.—Government orders No. 1134, dated 9th August 1836, paragraph 2.

Government order dated 30th May 1837, paragraph 13.

2*nd.*—One-fourth of the land to be in *cultivation* by the expiration of the 5th year from the date of grant, in failure whereof the Government shall be at liberty to resume the whole.—Government order No. 1134, dated 9th August 1836, paragraph 2.

3*rd.*—In lieu of an allowance for site of houses, water-courses, tanks, roads, the space required for the erection of dams, embankments, &c., one-fourth of the grant to be exempt from assessment in perpetuity.—Government order No. 1134, dated 9th August 1836, paragraph 2.

For 5 years; for 10 years; for 20 years.

4*th.*—The one-fourth of the land which is to be held in perpetuity rent-free shall not be distinguished in any manner from the general body of the grant, so as to be separable from it; but this privilege shall be held to extend to a fourth of the minutest sub-division of the soil, so as to be absolutely inalienable from the revenue paying portion of the grant.—Government order No. 829, dated 30th May 1837, paragraph 19.

* 6th—11th.
† 8th—13th.
‡ See special rules for hill forest grants.
§ 9th.
|| 30th—35th.

5*th.*—The grantee to engage to pay to Government from the commencement of 21st year* to the close of the 23rd year,† on the three remaining fourths of the land comprised in his pottah, a jumma or annual revenue of 12 annas‡ per poorah, and for the 24th§ and all succeeding years, till the end of the 45th year,|| one rupee and eight annas per poorah.—Government order No. 1134, dated 9th August 1836, paragraph 3; and Government order No. 497, dated 6th March 1838, paragraph 15.

¶ 30th—35th.

6*th.*—At the close of the 45th year¶ the whole quantity of land subject to assessment, that is, three-fourths of the whole area of each grant, will be liable to reassessment on the following principle.—Government order No. 1134, dated 9th August 1836, paragraph 4.

7*th.*—The money demand of Government shall not exceed the market value of one-fourth of the produce of the land per poorah, or (at the option of grantee as to the standard) the average rate of revenue paid by rice lands in the district in which the grant is situated.—

Government order No. 1134, dated 9th August 1836, paragraph 5; Government order No. 829, dated 30th May 1837, paragraph 14 (from the words "or at the option," &c.)

8th.—In the event of any difference arising with respect to the appraisement of the produce between the grantee or his representative and the officers of Government, the amount of revenue due under the terms above mentioned shall be arbitrated by three referees,—one to be named by the grantee, one by the Collector or other revenue authority of the district, and a third person nominated by the two former.—Government order No. 1134, dated 9th August 1836, paragraph 5.

9th.—The revenue will be liable to readjustment in the manner above explained at the close of every recurring term of 21 years, at the demand either of the grantee or his representative, or of the officers of Government.—Government order No. 1134, dated 9th August 1836, paragraph 6.

Special Rules for Hill Forest Grants.

The revenue on hill forests shall be assessed after the term of rent-free tenure, from the commencement of the 21st year till the expiration of the 45th year, at one-fourth of the rates of the forests on the plain; Clause 7, relating to the money demand of Government, being also applicable to hill forests for the adjustment of their subsequent settlements.—Government order No. 1829, dated 30th May 1837, paragraph 16.

Rules of Practice in regard to Grants of Waste Land.

I.—Previous to resuming grants on account of the non-fulfilment of engagements to clear and cultivate, formal notice shall be served on the grantee to show cause why the grant should not be resumed. The order for resumption shall be embodied in a formal proceeding and recorded.—Government order No. 829, dated 30th May 1837, paragraph 15.

II.—With a view to enforce the due registration of all transfers and changes in the proprietorship of the grants, no claims to proprietary rights in the lands or their rents will be recognized as valid in a court of law unless on proof of the registry of the claimant's name as proprietor in the Collector's book.—Government order No. 829, dated 30th May 1837, paragraph 15.

APPENDIX B.

Old Assam Rules of 1854.

I.—Applications for grants of waste lands in Assam shall be made to the Collector, who will enter them in a register to be kept for that purpose in his office, and after advertising them for one week at his office, will submit them through the Commissioner for the orders of the Board of Revenue. Should there be more than one application for the same grant, it shall be put up to sale after a further advertisement of 15 days, and the application of the highest bidder shall be submitted as above provided.

II.—Every applicant for a grant of waste land shall place in deposit with the Collector a sum of money sufficient to provide for a proper survey, by a compass ameen, of the boundaries of the grant,

and a copy of the plan of this survey shall be entered in the Collector's register for the effectual prevention of future disputes.

III.—No grants shall be for less than 500 acres of forest or grass waste, which will be granted on the same terms.*

IV.—One-fourth of the grant to be exempted from assessment in perpetuity for the site of houses, tanks, roads, embankments, &c., but not so as to be separable from the rest of the grant, or exempt from liability on account of the proportion of the grant subject to assessment.

V.—The other three-fourths of the grant to be also rent-free for 15 years, after which it shall be assessed at three annas per acre for 10 years, and for 74 years at 6 annas per acre, the whole term being fixed for 99 years.

VI.—After the 99th year the grants shall be liable to survey and resettlement, and to such moderate assessment as may seem proper to the Government of the day, the proprietary right in the grant and the right of engagement with Government remaining with the grantee, his heirs, executors, or assigns, under the conditions generally applicable to the owners of estates not permanently settled; and revenue equal to the amount annually paid from the 51st to the 99th year shall be paid annually by the grantee, his heirs, executors, or assigns, until such survey and resettlement or reassessment as is described above be effected.

VII.—One-eighth of the grant shall be cleared and rendered fit for cultivation by the expiration of the 5th year from the 18 ; one-fourth by the expiration of the 10th year from the 18 ; one-half by the expiration of the 20th year from the 18 ; and three-fourths by the expiration of the 30th year from the 18 . On failure of all or any of these conditions (the fact of which failure shall, after local inquiry conducted by the Collector or other officer, be finally determined by the Board of Revenue), the entire grant shall be resumed, and the grantee shall forfeit all right and interest in the lands, both those which may be yet uncleared and those which may have been cleared and brought into cultivation.

VIII.—Grants for hill forests shall be made on special terms, to be agreed upon in each case with the sanction of the Board of Revenue.

IX.—With a view to the due registration of all transfers and changes in the proprietorship of grants, no claims to the proprietary right in the lands, or the rents of a grant, will be recognized as valid, unless on proof of the registry of the claimant's name as proprietor on the Collector's book.

* Reduced to 200 acres, the local officers being vested with a discretionary power to go as low as 100 acres when the circumstances of a particular case may seem in their opinion to justify it.—Government order dated 31st March 1856, No. 262.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea

KAM

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				AREA IN ACRES.			
PROVINCE.	DISTRICT.	Name of plantation.	Approximate average elevation.	Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.
ASSAM.	KAMROOP	Bordoar ...	Not stated.	356	......	4,381	4,737
		Moirapore ...	Not stated.	150	......	655	805
		Greenwood ...	Not stated.	62	......	324	386
		Doomdoomia ...	Not stated.	40	......	82	122
		Amchang ...	Not stated.	186	15	727	928
		Clarence Garden ...	100 feet.	90	......	400	490
		Chilla ...	Unknown.	40	......	410	450
		Kolita Coochee ...	30 feet.	18	21	......	39
		Bonda ...	6 feet.	11	2	39	52
		Ramsha ...	Unknown.	120	30	326	476
		Sajogong Hill ...	120 feet.	8	1	61	70
		Ahomgong Hill ...	96 feet.	2	1½	90	93½
		Chunderpore ...	70 feet.	350	20	1,500	1,870
		Rung Mohal ...	10 feet.	25	22	6½	53½
		Noonmatty ...	750 feet above sea level.	40	71	389	500

After the third year it is usual to pluck tea from the plant, but the plant is considered to be in approximately the amount of tea produced from it cannot be given, owing to the planters not The quantity of land entered in column 7 represents the waste jungle and uncultivated portions of

Cultivation in the Assam Division in 1872.

ROOP.

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS.							Average yield in lb per acre of mature plants.
Black Tea.							
Congou.	Pekoe.	Souchong.	Fannings.	Broken.	Mixed.	Total.	
......	28,000	24,000	......	4,000	......	56,000	About 184lb.
......	12,000	10,000	......	2,000	......	24,000	
......	9,000	6,000	......	1,000	......	16,000	
......	9,000	6,000	......	1,000	......	16,000	
4,000	20,000	8,000	......	8,000	......	40,000	Ditto 215lb.
800	3,200	4,800	800	......	......	9,600	Ditto 106lb.
......	......	......	......	......	9,600	9,600	Ditto 240lb.
1,348	1,420	......	72	......	......	2,840	Ditto 157lb.
798	840	......	42	......	......	1,680	Ditto 152lb.
488	12,707	7,594	1,692	......	......	22,481	Ditto 187lb.
......	......	......	......	......	943	943	Ditto 94lb.
8,200	57,400	......	8,200	......	......	73,800	Ditto 211lb.
......	......	......	......	......	2,400	2,400	Ditto 96lb.
......	......	......	......	......	3,040	3,040	Ditto 76lb.

full bearing after the 8th year. The quantity of land under plant between the above two ages and having submitted the information required.

land in the grant, but no portion of it is unsuited for tea cultivation.

R. CORNISH,
For Offg. Deputy Commissioner of Kamroop.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
				AREA IN ACRES.				APPROXIMATE YIELD IN			
								Black			
Province.	District.	Name of plantation.	Approximate average elevation.	Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting but not yet planted.	Total.	Congou.	Pekoe.	Broken Pekoe.	Pekoe Souchong.
ASSAM.	DURRUNG.	Portabghur, Diplinga Sadhabari, Pabhoi.	...	363	38	3,253	3,654	...	40,261	34,726	12,373
		Tezpore new concern ...	1,000 feet above the sea level.	200	150	3,000	3,350	22,000	1,36,000	...	50,000
		Dekroi ...	...	260	42	2,054	2,356	...	24,000	23,200	22,200
		Gelahating, Gorikha ...	...	90	60	1,300	1,450	...	7,000	6,200	2,800
		Bishnath, Behali, other gardens belonging to Luckimpore Tea Company.	...	500	50	2,476	3,026	...	30,112	37,490	27,152
		Durrung Tea Company	...	320	78	1,910	2,308	...	...	...	...
		Tezpore Tea Company	...	200	30	130	360	...	...	...	...
		Kattal Gooree ..	...	135	5	674	814	...	...	...	...
		Messrs. Muir and Scanlan.	...	538	40	4,240	4,818	...	...	...	...
		Messrs. Lyall, Mackenzie and Company.	...	370	100	4,980	5,450	...	...	...	...
		Roopatol Tea Concern...	...	88	62	405	555	1,359	5,600	2,400	11,880
		Curama and Curumara	...	100	188	20	308	...	14,560	...	...
		Kowpati, Akajan, and four others.	...	250	93	1,657	2,000	12,500	21,000	11,500	24,000
		Amicable Tea Company	...	455	90	2,685	3,230	...	22,700	20,250	25,200
		Grinland ...	800 feet.	1,000	200	10,793	11,993	800	70,000	40,000	40,000
		Bishnath Doss ...	...	...	...	100	100	...	...	...	...
		Kobi Chandro Roy ...	...	...	...	100	100	...	...	...	...
		Gunganath Surma ...	...	...	...	302	302	...	...	...	...
		Gunganath Sewdhon ...	...	...	...	254	254	...	...	...	...
		Banoodhur and Phonidhur.	...	...	...	100	100	...	...	...	...
		Mr. W. Becher ..	...	...	...	298	298	...	...	...	...
		Dhooma Chowdry or Dhurm Doss.	...	...	...	156	156	...	...	...	...
		Gungaram and others...	..	...	...	100	100	...	...	...	...
		Gunga Gobind Mohundri Debya.	...	...	...	500	500	...	...	...	...
		Total ...	...	4,869	1,226	41,487	47,582	36,659	3,71,233	1,75,766	2,15,605

TEZPORE,
The 4th December 1872.

Culture in the District of Durrung.

13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS.												
Tea.							*Green Tea.*					
Souchong.	Broken Souchong.	Pekoe fannings.	Broken tea.	Fannings.	Broken tea.	Total.	First Pekoe.	Nan. G. Souchong.	Nan. broken tea.	Total.	Grand Total.	Average yield in lb per acre of mature plants.
												lb.
22,118	9,450	8,088	9,219	25,095	...	1,62,213	...	...	...	...	1,62,213	447, a little over 5½ mds. per acre.
...	...	...	...	36,000	...	2,44,000	...	...	...	...	2,44,000	720 of Pekoe tea, probably 800lb.
23,400	4,800	2,200	14,000	13,700	...	1,27,500	...	...	..	...	1,27,500	520
6,600	4,700	3,000	..	8,600	...	38,900	...	...	...	...	38,900	400
16,571	20,713	...	41,994	...	...	1,74,032	...	...	...	...	1,74,032	348
...	...	...	...	...	...	75,000	...	...	...	...	75,000	
...	...	...	...	...	...	40,000	...	...	...	...	40,000	
...	...	...	...	...	...	26,800	...	...	...	...	26,809	
...	...	...	...	...	...	1,30,000	...	...	...	...	1,30,000	
...	...	...	...	...	...	80,000	...	...	...	...	80,000	
...	1,908	...	...	...	2,053	25,200	...	...	...	...	25,200	286
3,520	5,120	...	...	...	8,880	32,000	...	...	...	...	32,000	320
...	9,000	...	...	...	5,000	83,000	...	...	...	...	83,000	332
12,150	...	...	...	22,450	12,950	1,16,000	...	...	...	...	1,16,000	255
30,000	...	...	...	30,000	...	2,18,000	2,000	3,000	1,000	6,000	2,21,000	240
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	.	..	
...	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1,14,659	55,691	14,188	65,213	1,35,845	28,803	14,93,462	2,000	3,000	1,000	6,000	14,99,46[illegible]	

J. M. GRAHAM,
Deputy Commissioner.

Statement illustrative of the state

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				AREA IN ACRES.			
PROVINCE.	DISTRICT.	Name of plantation.	Approximate average elevation.	Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting but not yet planted.	Total.
		Samoogooree ...	......	111	8	341	460
		Balijooree ...	......	48	20	143	211
		Hyah ...	......	114	36	360	510
		Madartollah ...	......	44	15	175	234
		Koliabar ... Rudropod ...	......	100	10	590	700
		Lessakatty Ghur ... Meessa ...	......	30	5	405	440
		Honaree ... Nuj Koliabar ...	......	60	30	1,710	1,800
		Amlokhee ...	......	90	85	640	815
		Gobordhon ...	60 feet	30	20	1,312	1,362
		Oolookoosee ...	......	65	15	538	618
ASSAM ..	NOWGONG	Seconee ...	500 feet	......	56	175	231
		Chotokondoh and Bamooni* ...	......	50·34	20	12·84	135·34
		Sokoorbaree ...	8 to 12 feet above level of rice lands adjoining.	116	3	491	610
		Kondolee ...		63	436	801	1,000
		Rengbeng ...		40	59	358	457
		Oojan Rungagera ...		......	120	455	575
		Bamooni ...		25	60	98	183
		Rangolee ...		62	5	210	277
		Teta Jooru ...		30	8	145	183
		Kellydenlate .. Nejori Khat ...	......	69½	50½	525	645
		ſapanulla ...	......	38½	6½	150	195
		Salonah ...	......	22½	77½	260	360
		Chapanulla* ...	.....	70	30	270	304

* The returns for these two

NOTE.—Plucking is generally commenced in the third year, and the time at which tea may be
This statement has been filled in with as much of the information called for as has been
amount of land actually fitted and meant for tea-planting from that unsuited for the purpose or used

of Tea Culture in Nowgong, Assam, 1872.

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS.									Grand Total.	Average yield in lb per acre of mature plant.
Black.										
Congou.	Congou & Souchong.	Souchong.	Pekoe.	Pekoe & broken Pekoe.	Broken Pekoe.	Broken Pekoe & fannings	Fannings.	Total.		
......	......	4,000	20,000	......	......	6,400	......	30,400	30,400	273
......	......	800	6,400	......	......	2,400	......	9,600	9,600	200
......	......	4,000	16,000	......	......	4,800	......	24,800	24,800	215
......	......	400	5,600	......	......	1,200	......	7,200	7,200	163
......	5,000	......	......	25,000	......	......	2,000	32,000	32,000	320
......	1,500	......	......	6,500	......	......	400	8,400	8,400	280
......	3,000	......	......	14,000	......	......	1,000	18,000	18,000	300
......	......	3,000	14,000	......	4,450	......	4,200	25,650	25,650	285
1,640	......	......	8,200	......	......	......	820	10,660	10,660	328
......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	14,760	14,760	227 1/5
......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	160
960	......	4,280	2,800	......	......	......	......	8,040	......	160
......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	
10,000	......	......	84,000	......	......	......	......	94,000	94,000	360 to 400
......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	
......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......
1,000	......	......	7,000	......	......	......	......	8,000	8,000	300
......	......	......	8,000	......	......	......	2,000	10,000	10,000	......
......	......	......	6,000	......	......	......	1,200	7,200	7,200	......
4,000	......	8,000	20,000	......	......	......	......	32,000	32,000	490
1,000	......	1,500	7,000	......	......	......	500	10,000	10,000	263
1,000	......	1,000	8,000	......	......	......	1,000	11,000	11,000	500
400	......	1,296	4,794	2,104	......	597	......	9,191	9,191	......

grants received in Bengali.

considered in full bearing is the seventh year.

gleaned from the various planters. From lack of information I am unable to note in detail th for grazing, timber, or charcoal supply, &c.

J. SHERER,
Deputy Commissioner.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea Culture in

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				AREA IN ACRES.			
PROVINCE.	DISTRICT.	Name of plantation.	Approximate average elevation.	Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.
ASSAM	LUCKIMPORE	*Upper Assam Tea Company's Estates.*					
		Rungagora	396 feet above sea level.	1,129	150	4,721	6,000
		Bozattoli					
		Tingrai					
		Nagagooly					
		Tengsdoria					
		Nadwa					
		Borborooa					
		Maijan					
		Chubwa Tea Company's Estates.					
		Dekom	...	647	50	12,917	13,614
		Sessa					
		Kholyjan					
		Chubwa					
		Wilton					
		Dehing Company's Estates.					
		Khowang	...	...	...	...	9,153
		Bamon					
		Tingkong					
		Jooria pookri					
		Kekery					
		Moran Tea Company's Estates.					
		Moran	...	400	20	685	1,105
		Tekraharry					
		Sepon					
		Tekaria					
		Warren Brothers' Estates.					
		Doomdoom	...	250	200	5,059	5,509
		Besakoopi					

the District of Luckimpore, Assam, during 1872.

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS WEIGHT.							Average yield in lb per acre of mature plant.	REMARKS.
Black.								
Broken tea.	Congou.	Pekoe.	Pekoe Souchong.	Souchong.	Fannings.	Total.		
							lb.	
36,950	...	2,11,236	41,634	...	25,790	3,15,610	279·5	Office register shows an area of 8,558 acres as taken up for the purpose of tea cultivation.
.	13,600	60,000	...	12,000	22,400	1,08,000	166·9	Office register shows an area of 13,155 acres as taken up for the purpose of tea cultivation. About half of the land shown in column 7 is fit, and the remainder unfit, for tea cultivation, but is kept for timber, charcoal, &c.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	1,00,000	250	Our office register shows an area of 1,087 acres as taken up for the purpose of tea cultivation.
...	9,600	48,000	...	19,200	19,200	96,000	384	Office register shows an area of 5,208 acres as taken up for the purpose of tea cultivation: $\frac{4}{5}$ths of the land shown in column 7 is fit, and $\frac{1}{5}$th unfit, for tea cultivation, but is kept for timber, &c.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea Culture in the

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
PROVINCE.	DISTRICT.	Name of plantation.	Approximate average elevation.	AREA IN ACRES. Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.
ASSAM ...	LUCKIMPORE ...	*Shaw and Jamieson's Estates.*					
		Tullup ... ... Dengoree	...	195	400	1,653½	2,248½
		Jaipore Tea Estate.					
		Kokojan	...	76	18	508	602
		Mr. Sellar's Estate.					
		Khonikar	...	65	10	545	620
		Mr. Gibson's Estate.					
		Doolahat	...	70	20	1,028	1,118
		Joyhing Tea Estates.					
		Joyhing ... ... Pathalipam	...	60	100	1,114	1,274
		Mr. N. White's Estates.					
		Panitola ... ... Dohootia	...	63	20	429½	512½

District of Luckimpore, Assam, during 1872.—(*Continued.*)

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS WEIGHT.							Average yield in lb per acre of mature plant.	REMARKS.
Black.								
Broken tea.	Congou.	Pekoe.	Pekoe Souchong.	Souchong.	Fannings.	Total.		
							lb.	
...	5,360	57,040	...	7,600	27,600	97,600	500·5	Office register shows an area of 1,830 acres as taken up for the purpose of tea cultivation; 700 to 800 acres of land shown under column 7 are intended for tea; and the remainder, though a large portion of it is suitable for tea, is intended to be reserved for timber, charcoal, &c.
...	240	7,200	...	...	2,160	9,600	126·3	Of this about 100 acres are only fit for charcoal, timber, &c.
...	464	3,248	5,568	...	......	9,280	142·7	About 200 acres of land shown under column 7 are unsuited for tea.
...	760	13,088	8,809	6,639	1,304	33,600	480	Probably one-half of the 1,118 acres are fit for growing tea—can't say exactly.
5,440	320	15,156	...	3,200	2,800	26,916	448·6	
...	1,600	...	3,520	...	800	5,920	93·9	Office register shows an area of 431 acres as taken up for the purpose of tea cultivation; of 429½ acres of land shown under heading 7, about 229½ are unfitted for tea.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea Culture in the

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Area in acres.			
Province.	District.	Name of plantation.	Approximate average elevation.	Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.
Assam ...	Luckimpore ..	*Eastern Assam Company's Estates.*					
		Rajghur ... ... Mohonbary ... ... Bolye ... ... Dewan ... ... Rowmaria ... ... Guigan	...	...	...	...	16,790*
		British India Company's Estates.					
		Mankata ... ... Reha ... ... Sessa	...	...	...	...	2,205*
		Muttock Company's Estates.					
		Lahwal ... ... Bokol ... ... Timona	...	...	...	...	2,140*
		Revd. Usborne's Estates					
		Bogpara... ... ... Chokidinghi	...	...	...	..	395
		Teel and Company's Estates.					
		Bogpara ... ... Singlijan	...	...	...	...	576*
		Mr. J. H. Wagentrieber's.					
		Mohonbary	...	...	...	...	90
		Mr. Lindesay's Estates.					
		Kobang ... ... Dullah ... ... Lyna ... ... Samoogory	...	...	...	...	157*
		Keche Dass's Estate.					
		Rowmary	...	...	...	...	658

* These figures have been
† Ditto ditto

District of Luckimpore, Assam, during 1872.—(*Continued.*)

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS WEIGHT. *Black.*							Average yield in lb per acre of mature plant.	REMARKS.
Broken tea.	Congou.	Pekoe.	Pekoe Souchong.	Souchong.	Fannings.	Total.		
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	94,757†	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	48,198†	...	
...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	
...	...	...	...	...	..	2,151†	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	24,000†	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

taken from office records.
from tea reports of 1871.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea Culture in the

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				AREA IN ACRES.			
PROVINCE.	DISTRICT.	Name of plantation.	Approximate average elevation.	Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taking up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.
Assam ..	Luckimpore ..	*St. George's Estate.*					
		Tiphook	..	...	..	...	2,278*
		Runglall's Estate.					
		Chalkhoa	.		.	...	279
		Ramput's Estate.					
		Kunginslah	..	...		...	5,280
		Unut Ram's.					
		Medella	..		..	...	362
		Mr. Forbes' Estates.					
		Bokol ... ... Jokai	...	..	..	...	1,922
		Luckimpore Tea Company's Estates.					
		Cinatolia ... ... Kodom .. .. Hateelong ... .. Elengmora ... ... Deobheel	...	...	...	...	2,316
		Watson's Tea Estate.					
		Holmary	...	...	...	...	1,224
		Stewart Langlois' Estate.					
		Dijoo	...	...	...	...	200†
		Stewart's Estate.					
		Silonee	...	...	...	...	1,200
		Mr. G. S. Reade's Estate.					
		Bihporia	...	...	...	...	265

* These figures have been taken
† Ditto ditto

District of Luckimpore, Assam, during 1872.—(*Continued.*)

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN ℔ AVOIRDUPOIS WEIGHT.							Average yield in ℔ per acre of mature plant.	REMARKS.
Black.								
Broken tea.	Congou.	Pekoe.	Pekoe Souchong.	Souchong.	Fannings.	Total.		
...	...	...	...	...	...	4,880†	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	..	...	...	...		...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	
...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...		
...	...	...	...	...	...	2,713†	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

from office records.
from tea reports of 1871.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea Culture in the

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
PROVINCE.	DISTRICT.	Name of plantation.	Approximate average elevation.	AREA IN ACRES.			
				Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.
ASSAM ..	LUCKIMPORE ..	*Mr. Minto's Estates.*					
		Hoogrejan ... ... Laipoolie ... ... Hookanjoory	...	...	...	...	...
		Hannay's Estates.					
		Dibrooghur ... ... Chalkhoa ... ... Mutlah	...	...	...	...	18,572*
		Rattray's Estate.					
		Atabarry	...	...	...	...	205·92
		Waggentrieber's Estates.					
		Oakland ... ... Borpathar	...	...	...	...	2,516*
		Debrooghur Company's Estates	...	..	...	...	2,610*
		Phonidhur's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	245*
		Khoorsed's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	146*
		Mr. Haley's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	51*
		Northern Assam Company's Estates ...	...	...	...	...	8,955*
		Mr. Higg's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	519*
		Mr. Higginson's Garden	...	...	...	...	4,462*
		Bogpara Company's Garden	...	...	...	...	613*
		Dehing Gossain's Gardens	...	...	...	...	595*
		Mr. Tomkinson's Garden	...	...	...	...	1,200*
		Messrs. Gonsalves and Bowal's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	309*
		Mr. Mitchell's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	590*
		Messrs. Peal and Beckett's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	1,413*
		Damoodhur Dutt's Garden	...	...	...	...	205*
		Mr. Belli's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	1,151*
		Major Gibb's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	2,118*
		Awniati Gossain's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	125*
		Mr. Davidson's Garden.	...	...	...	...	2337*
		Messrs. Lane and King's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	500*

N.B.—Information has been twice

* These figures have been taken from

† Ditto ditto from

District of Luckimpore, Assam, during 1872.—*(Concluded.)*

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS WEIGHT.							Average yield in lb per acre of mature plant.	REMARKS.
Black.								
Broken tea.	Congou.	Pekoe.	Pekoe Souchong.	Souchong.	Fannings.	Total.		
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	No information available.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

asked for, but has not been furnished.
office records.
tea reports for 1871.

Abstract of Gardens from which

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Area in acres.			
Province.	District.	Name of plantation.	Approximate average elevation.	Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.
Assam ...	Luckimpore...	Upper Assam Tea Company's Estates.	396 feet above sea level.	1,129	150	4,721	6,000
		Chubwa Company's Estates.	...	647	50	12,917	13,614
		Moran Company's Estates.	...	400	20	685	1,105
		Warren Brothers' Estates.	...	250	200	5,059	5,509
		Shaw and Jamieson's Estates.	...	195	400	1,653½	2,218½
		Jaipore Tea Estate ...	...	76	18	508	602
		Mr. Sellar's Garden ...	...	65	10	545	620
		Mr. Gibson's Garden ...	...	70	20	1,028	1,118
		Joyhing Tea Estate ...	...	60	100	1,114	1,274
		Panitolla Dohootia ...	...	63	20	429½	512½
		Total	...	2,955	988	28,660	32,6[illegible]3

Abstract of Gardens from which

Assam ...	Luckimpore...	Dehing Company's Estates.	...	...	...	...	9,153
		Eastern Assam Company's Estates.	...	...	...	...	16,790
		British India Company's Estates.	...	...	...	...	2,205
		Muttock Tea Company's Estate.	...	...	...	...	2,140
		Revd. Usborne's Estates.	...	...	...	...	395
		Teel and Company's Estates.	...	...	...	...	576
		Mr. J. H. Waggentrieber's Estate.	...	...	...	...	90
		Mr. Lindesay's Estate...	...	...	...	...	157
		Kechee Dass' Estate ...	...	...	...	...	658
		St. George's Garden	...	...	...	...	2,278
		Runglall's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	279
		Ramput's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	52
		Unut Ram's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	362
		Mr. Forbes' Garden ...	...	...	...	...	2,022
		Luckimpore Tea Company's Estate.	...	...	...	...	2,316
		Watson's Tea Garden...	...	...	...	...	1,224
		Stewart and Langlois' Garden.	...	...	...	...	200
		Stewart's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	1,200
		G. S. Reade's Garden...	...	...	...	...	265

information has been received.

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS WEIGHT.							Average yield in lb per acre of mature plant.	REMARKS.
Black.								
Broken tea.	Congou.	Pekoe.	Pekoe Souchong.	Souchong.	Fannings.	Total.		
36,950	...	2,11,236	41,634	...	25,790	3,15,610	279·5	
...	13,600	60,000	...	12,000	22,400	1,08,000	166·9	
...	...	...	...	...	...	1,00,000	250·	
...	9,600	48,000	...	19,200	19,200	96,000	384·	
...	5,360	57,040	...	7,600	27,600	97,600	500·5	
...	240	7,200	...	...	2,160	9,600	126·3	
...	464	3,248	5,568	...	...	9,280	142·7	
...	760	13.088	8,809	6,639	4,304	33,600	480·	
5,440	320	15,156	...	3,200	2,800	26,916	418·6	
...	1,600	...	3,520	...	800	5,920	93·9	
42,390	31,944	4,14,968	59,531	48,639	1,05,054	8,02,526	...	

no information has been received.

...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	91,757	...
...	...	...	...	..	...	48,198	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	21,551	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	24,000	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
...	...	...	...	...	...	4,880	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	2,743	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Abstract of Gardens from which no

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Province.	District.	Name of plantation.	Approximate average elevation.	Area in acres.			
				Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.
Assam ...	Luckimpore ...	Mr. Minto's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	...
		Hannay Tea Estate ...	...	...	...	...	18,572
		Rattray Tea Estate ...	...	...	...	...	205
		Mr. Waggentrieber's Garden.	...	...	...	...	2,516
		Dibrooghur Company's Estate.	...	...	...	...	2,640
		Phonidhur's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	245
		Khoorsed's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	146
		Mr. Haly's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	61
		Northern Assam Company's Estate.	...	...	...	...	8,955
		Mr. Higg's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	549
		Mr. Higginson's Garden	...	...	...	...	4,462
		Bogpara Company's Garden.	...	...	...	...	643
		Dehing Gosain's Garden	...	...	...	...	595
		Mr. Tomkinson's Garden	...	...	...	...	1,200
		Messrs. Gonsalves and Bowl's Garden.	...	...	...	...	309
		Mr. Mitchell's Garden...	...	...	...	...	590
		Messrs. Peel and Beckett's Garden.	...	...	...	...	1,443
		Damoodur's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	205
		Mr. Belli's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	1,151
		Major Gibb's Garden ...	...	...	...	...	2,148
		Awnoti Gossain's Garden.	...	...	...	...	125
		Mr. Davidson's Garden.	...	...	...	...	2,337
		Messrs. Lane & King's Garden.	...	...	...	...	500
		Total ...	...	...	...	...	91,849
		Brought forward from page 8.	...	2,955	988	28,660	32,603
		Grand Total ...	...	2,955	988	28,660	1,24,452

The plants in this district are usually commenced to be plucked in the third year, and are
The quantity of land under plant between these two ages, and approximately the amount of
The amount of land actually fitted and meant for tea-planting, and the amount unsuited to the
returns of those gardens from which information has been received, but no figures for the whole

Dy. Commr.'s Office, Luckimpore,

The 8th January 1873.

information has been received.—(Continued.)

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS WEIGHT.							Average yield in lb per acre of mature plant.	REMARKS.
Black.								
Broken tea.	Congou.	Pekoe.	Pekoe Souchong.	Souchong.	Fannings.	Total.		
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	1,96,129	...	
42,390	31,944	4,14,968	59,531	48,639	1,05,054	8,02,526	...	
42,390	31,944	4,14,968	59,531	48,639	1,05,054	9,98,655	...	

generally considered to come into full bearing in their sixth or seventh year.
tea produced from it, cannot be given owing to the refusal to furnish information.
purpose, or used for grazing, timber and charcoal supply, and the like, is noted in each case in the
district can be given.

W. C. S. CLARKE,
Deputy Commissioner.

Statement illustrative of the state

SEEBSAU

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
PROVINCE.	DISTRICT.	Names of plantations.	Approximate average elevation.	AREA IN ACRES.			
				Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.
		Seebsaugor.	Feet.				
UPPER ASSAM.	SEEBSAUGOR.	Assam Company ...	1,000	5,100	340	14,990	20,430
		Mr. Adams ...	...	120	...	301	421
		Mr. Kitto, manager of Lakowa ...	394	200	24	451	675
		Land Mortgage Bank ...	480	80	...	896	976
		Attabarree Factory ...	...	350	80	1,870	2,300
		Mahmora Tea Estate ...	120	200	100	700	1,000
		Maibellia Tea Estate ...	...	...	33	240	273
		Jorehaut Sub-Division.					
		Gotonga Tea Estate ...	350	180	60	...	240
		Cinnamorah Tea Estate ...	370	428	24	...	452
		Rungajan Tea Estate ...	370	184	60	...	244
		Goreeahabee Tea Estate ...	370	133	3	...	136
		Hatee Choongee Tea Estate	370	103	29	...	132
		Bokaholla Tea Estate ...	370	154	76	...	230
		Choie Kotta Tea Estate ...	370	28	74	...	102
		Dhekia Julie Tea Estate ...	370	79	66	...	145
		Duflla Ting Tea Estate ...	350	265	...	1,040	1,305
		Deroie Pany Tea Estate ...	350	100	33	478	611
		Dangdhura Tea Estate ...	350	18	22	346	386
		Chomgee Tea Estate ...	350	97	6	897	1,000
		Borholla Tea Estate ...	...	246	12	2,380	2,638
		Sokola Tenga Tea Estate ...	...	107	50	1,165	1,322
		Golaghât Sub-Division.					
		Noomalighur Tea Estate ...	370	421	48	1,755	2,224
		Oating and Balijan Tea Estate ...	370	145	12	587	744
		Rungagora Tea Estate ...	370	117	23	994	1,134
		Nigri Ting Tea Estate ...	370	541	85	1,244	1,870
		Rungamattee Tea Estate ..	370	69	40	811	920
		Korona Ting Tea Estate ..	...	...	...	137	137
		New Golaghât Tea Co. with 4 gardens ...	370	568	20	4,862	5,450
		Hoomtai Tea Estate ...	370	96	95	309	500
		Halmorah Tea Estate ...	370	200	40	1,099	1,339
		Furka Ting Tea Estate ...	370	80	...	537	617
		Mokrong Tea Estate ...	370	80	...	295	375
		Rungajan Tea Estate ...	370	185	27	2,111	2,323
		Badlipar Tea Estate ...	370	150	80	34	264
		Mowkhowa Tea Estate ...	370	50	35	270	355
		Rungalee Ting Tea Estate	370	45	...	65	110
		Dillloo Tea Estate ...	370	157	...	255	412
		Punka Tea Estate ...	370	96	...	200	296
		Latookajan Tea Estate ...	370	35	37	215	287
		Deering Tea Estate ...	370	30	36	198	264
		Halwa Tea Estate ...	370	30	6	228	264
		Harticoolie Tea Estate ...	370	15	...	249	264
		Hurreemothee Tea Estate	370	8	...	261	269
		Doijan Tea Estate ..	370	...	14	364	378
		Total ...		11,290	1,690	42,834	55,814

DY. COMMR.'S OFFICE, SEEBSAUGOR,
The 9th October 1872.

of Tea Culture in Assam in 1872.

GOR.

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS.							Average yield per acre of mature plants in lb.
Black.						Grand Total.	
Congou.	Pekoe.	Pekoe Souchong.	Souchong.	Fannings.	Total.		
150,000	450,000	...	270,000	630,000	1,500,000	150,000	294
...	24,000	8,000	...	...	32,000	32,000	266
...	...	...	...	...	58,000	58,000	238
...	13,500	3,000	...	...	16,500	16,500	206
...	...	...	...	...	96,000	96,000	223
...	24,600	...	28,700	28,700	82,000	82,000	410
...	400	...	...	...	400	400	12
1,260	34,000	...	3,690	2,050	41,000	41,000	220
15,000	66,800	...	30,000	45,000	156,800	156,800	366
7,000	30,000	...	15,000	20,000	72,000	72,000	396
3,000	16,840	...	6,000	9,000	34,840	34,840	262
3,000	12,640	...	6,000	9,000	30,640	30,640	297
4,000	18,400	...	8,000	12,000	42,400	42,400	275
1,000	4,800	...	2,000	3,000	10,800	10,800	385
1,800	7,360	...	3,600	5,400	18,160	18,160	230
...	...	...	...	...	88,000	88,000	
...	...	...	...	...	} 32,000	32,000	} 320
...	...	...	...	...	32,000	32,000	
...	18,000	18,000	21,000	3,000	60,000	60,000	250
...	8,100	8,100	9,450	1,350	27,000	27,000	252
15,000	65,480	...	30,000	40,000	150,480	150,480	357
3,600	16,200	...	7,000	10,000	36,800	36,800	254
3,300	13,380	...	6,600	9,000	32,280	32,280	284
...	67,500	22,500	52,500	7,500	150,000	150,000	277
...	8,550	2,850	6,650	950	19,000	19,000	295
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1,722	78,064	13,776	3,444	17,794	114,800	114,800	202
...	...	...	...	...	32,000	32,000	333
...	...	...	...	...	44,000	41,000	240
320	8,800	3,200	480	3,200	16,000	16,000	200
24	660	240	36	240	1,200	1,200	15
...	...	...	...	...	28,000	28,000	151
...	16,000	...	16,000	8,000	40,000	40,000	266
...	2,800	2,000	...	1,600	6,400	6,400	128
...	...	3,600	...	...	3,600	3,600	80
...	...	...	...	...	51,200	51,200	326
...	...	...	...	...	25,600	25,600	266
...	...	...	...	...	6,800	6,800	191
...	...	...	...	...	4,000	4,000	133
...	...	...	...	...	4,000	4,000	133
...	...	...	...	..	2,000	2,000	133
...	...	...	...	...	800	800	100
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
210,026	1,006,874	85,266	526,150	866,784	3,199,500	3,199,500	...

A. E. CAMPBELL,
Deputy Commissioner.

Table showing monthly total of Tea made here for the following years.

SAPAKATIE (SEEBSAUGOR, ASSAM).

Months of	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.
	lb.					
March	112	380	381	294*	300	650
April	202	169*	509	513	268	600
May	246 (Hardly any laborer)	278 (Hardly any laborer)	637	774	1,900	1,921 (Very short of labour.)
June	274	299	456	716	2,493	2,712
July	220	200	640	936	2,646	2,851
August	368	743	641	1,124	1,964	2,634
September	276	154	581	1,284	1,838	
October	210	217	612	1,440	1,544	
November	70	41	209	355	977	
Total ...	1,918	1,880	4,665	7,436	14,229	1,650, say 9,600

* Small return due to want of rain early in year.

Garden is 80 acres ; opened 1864-65 at 6 × 6, and since then filled in to 6 × 3.

The outturn of a garden is by no means a proof of its capabilities, but depends here on the amount of labor and money available; thus my estimate for 1873 is as below:—

				Mds.		
If I get but $\frac{3}{4}$ of a man per acre, *i.e.*,	Rs. 9,400,	crops will be	200	at	Rs. 47	per md.
„ „ 1 man „	„ 10,400,	„	250		„ $41\frac{1}{2}$	„
„ „ $1\frac{1}{4}$ „ „	„ 11,600,	„	320		„ 36	„

The garden can yield 320 maunds, but not much over, this year.

S. E. PEAL.

APPENDIX D.

Memorandum of Mr. Campbell, Assistant Commissioner of Burpettah, on Tea-planting in Assam.

THE experimental cultivation of tea in India was undertaken by Government in 1834, in consequence of a minute recorded by Lord William Bentinck, dated 24th January of that year. It was urged that great advantages would result to India, in a commercial point of view, from the success of the scheme, and that it would also place England in an independent position in respect to China. A committee, consisting of eleven European and two native gentlemen, was accordingly appointed to mature and carry out a plan for introducing the culture of the plant into such parts of the British possessions as might be found suited for it.

2. The existence of the tea plant in its indigenous state in the Assam territory had long before this been definitely ascertained. Two brothers of the name of Bruce had been trading in the province previous to its annexation under British rule. The elder appears to have settled in the country and to have held some post under one of the temporary rulers who were in power during the anarchy which preceded the expulsion of the Burmese. The younger brother, Mr. C. A. Bruce, was appointed in 1824 to command a division of gun-boats in Upper Assam during the progress of hostilities with Burmah, and in 1826 he brought down certain plants and seed which were identified as belonging to the tea of commerce. Whether these plants and seed were discovered by him or his brother is not quite clear, but it would seem that they were first brought to notice by him.

3. It does not appear that any immediate advantage was taken of the discovery, which was communicated to the Court of Directors; but after the establishment of the Tea Committee appointed by Government in 1834, Captain Jenkins, the Commissioner of Assam, lost no time in informing it of the fact that the tea shrub had been found indigenous through a tract of country extending from Suddyah in our territory to the China frontier province of Yunan.

4. A deputation of the committee, consisting of three medical gentlemen, viz. Drs. Wallich, McClelland, and Griffiths, proceeded to Upper Assam, and, after prosecuting necessary inquiries, established nurseries and entertained a small establishment, under Mr. C. A. Bruce as overseer, for the exploration of the jungles in search of tracts of indigenous plants, and their cultivation when discovered. A supply of Chinese tea seed and of young plants was also about this time obtained from China, which were found to succeed well in the soil of Upper Assam.

5. The operations of the Tea Committee appear to have proceeded very slowly owing to the great difficulties of communication between Assam and Calcutta which existed at the period, as also to the total ignorance which then prevailed on all points connected with the proper cultivation of the plant and the manufacture of tea. A sample of tea which had been forwarded to the Court of Directors in 1836 arrived in so mouldy a state that it could not be tested; this specimen would seem, however, from the description given of it by the Court in their despatch of August 1837, to have been merely a collection of leaves

gathered from the wild shrub, without having undergone any course of·manipulation or other process necessary for conversion into the tea of ordinary use.

6 Tea-makers and artisans from China were introduced in 1837, and some consignments of manufactured Assam tea were forwarded to the Court of Directors in the years 1838-39, which were found on arrival to be of such excellent quality, and to command such very high prices at open sale, that the undertaking attracted the attention of the English mercantile world, and a company, which was afterwards styled the Assam Company, was formed for the cultivation of the tea-plant and manufacture of tea in Upper Assam.

7. The India Government, as also the Court of Directors, had all along adhered to the intention of withdrawing their connection with tea-planting as soon as it had been sufficiently established to be entrusted to private enterprise, and shortly after the formation of the Assam Company two-thirds of the Government establishment, gardens, and nurseries, were made over to it.

8. The Assam Company continued its operations with great vigor, and the character of the tea which was manufactured and consigned to the home market was all that could be desired; nevertheless the undertaking in a few years began to be looked on as a commercial failure, the profits being in no way equal to what the proprietors had been led to expect. In 1846-47 the shares of the Company, on which £20 had been paid up, had become well nigh unsaleable; many holders thought to get rid of them on any terms, and some shares were said to have been sold for half-a-crown apiece.

9. The unsatisfactory state of affairs which was expressed by this depreciation may be thus explained. Under the ideas respecting the cultivation of tea which at first obtained, an undue importance was attached to the localities where the indigenous plant was found growing: the most inaccessible and unhealthy places were often occupied merely on account of a few acres of straggling indigenous shrubs being discovered in the neighbouring forests. The planting out of fores land was not sufficiently attended to, and the most extravagant out turns were expected from the small and sparsely covered patches c tea actually existing.

10. At the same time the establishments maintained were on th most expensive scale, and even a steamer was purchased to convey th scanty crops of the Company from Assam to Calcutta. Of course so larg an outlay with no corresponding return seriously affected the resources (the Company, and it was compelled to close several of its factories and t retain only a few which could be cultivated and worked at the least expens

11. The Government had, as already stated, retained one-third its experimental tea estates; these were worked till April 1849, wh they were sold for the small sum of Rs. 900 and odd to a Chinam employed in the garden. It does not appear that the Governme determination to sever its connection with tea-planting was caused any exceptional loss; but the object with which the experiments had be commenced fifteen years before had been fully attained, and t further development of tea cultivation in India was left entirely private enterprise.

12. The affairs of the Assam Company do not appear to have materially improved much earlier than at the beginning of the year 1852, while the measure of their success had not encouraged competition. One rival company had indeed been started by a local proprietary, but the lands on which they proposed to establish themselves were situated in the country of the Singphos; their manager quarrelled with these people, and was burnt out of his house at night and narrowly escaped with his life, and the scheme was shortly afterwards abandoned.

13. The first private garden of any importance in Assam was the one commenced near Debrooghur in 1850-51 by Colonel Hannay. Shortly afterwards the experimental Government plantation in the same district, which, as before mentioned, had been sold to a Chinaman employed on it, changed hands and became the property of a wealthy London firm. Private enterprise thus started extended soon to the neighbouring district of Seebsaugor, and in 1853, when Mr. Mills, a Judge of the Sudder Court, was deputed to Assam on special duty, he found three private gardens established in Seebsaugor, while the number in the Luckimpore district near Debrooghur had increased to six. In none of the other districts of the province had tea-planting been begun up to that date.

14. The rules under which grants of waste lands were made for purposes of reclamation had until Mr. Mills' visit differed considerably in the several districts of the province. Thus in Luckimpore grants of waste land were made for ten and twenty years respectively, according to the description of jungle growth with which the land happened to be covered at the time of application, and after the lapse of the period of rent-free tenure the land became amenable to the ordinary rates of assessment current in the district. In Seebsaugor the Assam Company held its grants on a lease of forty-five years, twenty years of which were to be rent free, after which for three years a rate of assessment was to be paid somewhat lower than that of other assessed land, and for the remaining twenty-two years of lease the rate fixed was about 50 per cent. in excess of that prevalent for similar lands in the district. In the other districts of the province where tea-planting had not been introduced, and the granting of waste land was likely to interfere with the land revenue, they were made with greater caution and on more stringent terms.

15. After Mr. Mills' visit to Assam a set of rules, which came to be known subsequently as the Waste Land Rules of 1854, were promulgated. The chief features of these rules were that all leases of waste land were to run for a uniform period of ninety-nine years; one-fourth was exempted from assessment in perpetuity, the remaining three-fourths were to be held on rent-free tenure for fifteen years, after which the land was subject to a light assessment, which was to be increased gradually at stated intervals of years. Certain clearance conditions were also attached to these grants; they provided that one eighth of the total area was to be cleared and rendered fit for cultivation in five years, one-fourth in ten years, one-half in twenty years, and three-fourths in thirty years; and that in default of compliance with these clearance conditions the grant was to be resumed.

16. During the five years succeeding the promulgation of the Waste Land Rules of 1854, tea-planting continued to make steady progress, and gradually found its way into all the districts of Assam.

By the end of 1859 there had sprung up no less than 51 tea gardens, all owned by private individuals; of these 10 were situated in Luckimpore—the pioneer district of private tea enterprise—15 in Seebsaugor, 3 in Durrung, and the remainder in Kamroop and Nowgong; the two last-named districts were the latest to which tea-planting was extended, an impression having previously obtained that their soil and climate were unsuited to the profitable cultivation of the plant. Meanwhile, however, the Assam Company had remained the only corporate body engaged in tea cultivation. By the year 1858 its early difficulties had been almost forgotten: its shares were quoted at a high premium, and those of its factories which had been closed during its period of financial depression had been again re-opened.

17. From 1859 to 1863 tea-planting continued to advance with rapid strides, and yet maintained a healthy state. Several joint-stock companies were formed for the purchase of private gardens, and as most of these companies were managed with a due regard to prudence and for the *boná fide* purpose of tea cultivation, they subsequently proved their soundness by outliving the severe depression in tea affairs which occurred at a later period.

18. The successful working of the companies which had been earliest formed, and the large sums which in some instances individual owners of gardens had realized by selling their estates to them, engendered in time a dangerous spirit of speculation, and from 1863 to about the end of 1865 a rush took place to secure waste lands as quickly as could be, to bring portions of them under nominal cultivation and then to dispose of them at enormous profits to newly-formed companies.

19. The Waste Land Rules of 1854 had worked well, but there was always a feeling of dissatisfaction with them in respect to the resumption clauses to be enforced in case of any breach of the clearance conditions. Grantees considered that the value of their property was depreciated owing to those clauses, though in other respects they were deemed liberal enough. In several cases the growing scarcity of timber in the vicinity of tea estates rendered it most disadvantageous to clear forests the maintenance of which was essential to the proper working of the factory; in other cases a lack of sufficient means and the increased cost of labor put it quite out of the power of grantees to carry out the conditions which they had agreed to when accepting the leases.

20. These considerations, and a desire for absolute fixity of tenure and liberty of disposal, found in due time their expression in the urgent demand for the sale outright of waste lands in fee-simple, which was at last satisfied by Lord Canning's proclamation of the 17th October 1861, and shortly afterwards a set of rules was promulgated for regulating the disposal of waste lands in the sense of the proclamation.

21. A very important feature in these rules was that no lot should be sold unless it had been previously surveyed and demarcated. This provision, had it been rigidly adhered to, would have prevented much of the unhealthy, if not dishonest, speculation which subsequently took place. Unfortunately, however, just at the time when some such check was most needed, it was suspended by the Board of Revenue, and district officers were authorized to sell lots on a rough pen-and-ink sketch made of them by the applicants. As has been already stated,

the chief object of speculators during the tea mania was to get possession of one or more lots of waste land; and the suspension of the clauses in the Waste Land Rules providing for demarcation and survey previous to sale, made it very easy of attainment. The next step taken by the more honest among them was to try and bring portions of their lots, under some sort of a semblance, to tea cultivation in as short a time as practicable. Local labor was hired at any rate which the laborers chose to ask for it. Tea seed was purchased at extravagant prices. The earth was scratched up and the seed being laid down, the speculator considered himself free to form a company, which was to start by buying the lands he had scarcely finished clearing and sowing on, as accomplished tea gardens, and what still remained of undeniable waste, at a cost out of all proportion to the amount he had contracted to pay for it to the State, and to what it was worth.

22. But in time even such a pretence of cultivation as has been described in the previous paragraph was thought too slow, and more enterprising traders found their account in persuading shareholders to invest in tea gardens that were actually not in existence at all. A remarkable instance of this occurred in the Nowgong district, where the Indian manager of a promoter of companies in London was advised by his employer to clear and plant a certain area of waste land for delivery to a company to whom he had just sold it as a tea garden.

23. It cannot be wondered, therefore, that under such circumstances a most reckless expenditure of money took place in the hiring of labor and purchase of seed; but reckless as this expenditure might be, it fell very short of the recklessness with which extravagant sums were paid by joint-stock companies for property which eventually proved utterly worthless.

24. One distressing feature connected with these mushroom companies was the ruin, misery, and destitution in which they involved numbers of young men whom they engaged in England and sent to Assam, and who, when the collapse came, found themselves suddenly turned adrift in a most inhospitable country without a penny or a friend; some died, others had literally to beg their way out of Assam, most had to regret impaired constitutions, and all the loss of some of the best years of their life. What made the matter worse in some instances, was where these youths had received their situations from promoters on the understanding that their friends and relatives would support the company by taking a certain number of its shares. It is to be feared that in some cases the scanty savings of a lifetime were thus sacrificed.

25. The action of speculators as above described, besides involving in ruin those who were so imprudent as to trust them, affected prejudicially the operations of *bonâ fide* tea concerns. The local labor on which they had formerly depended was completely diverted, and they were compelled to import coolies from Bengal at a cost which absorbed a good portion of, if not all, the profits which had hitherto been available for yearly dividends. It is true that this loss was for a time counterbalanced by a new source of gain which these old concerns derived from the increased price obtainable for tea seed; but when speculations in tea companies ended, this source of profit disappeared, while the high rates which labor had risen to continued.

26. The progress of the cooly trade, to which a very great impetus was given by the action of speculators, resulted in a state of things which very soon called for the interference of Government, not, however, until a great number of human lives had been sacrificed before the necessary measures of reform could be introduced. The cry from Assam, both from speculators and *bonâ fide* tea cultivators, during the continuance of the tea mania, was "Labor, more labor." It was necessary to the one party for the rapid formation of companies before the crash, which they knew was sure to follow, could take place; to the other party it was necessary for the maintenance of existing gardens. The contractors and recruiters in Calcutta took advantage of the emergency to send up as laborers any who had sufficient vitality to walk or crawl on board the steamers employed to convey them to Assam. The halt, the blind, the insane, the hopelessly diseased—in fact the refuse of the bazaars, were all alike drafted to Assam at a certain rate per head, which yielded a handsome profit to recruiters and others interested in the trade.

27. The fate of the majority of these unhappy people was truly sad. Those who survived the epidemics which broke out on the passage up, and sometimes carried off as many as 20 per cent. of their number during a voyage seldom exceeding three weeks, were landed in a country utterly strange to them, with a climate which in their weak state was particularly calculated to generate diseases of the most virulent and fatal type. They were often conveyed to gardens where no arrangements had been made for accommodating them, and where no medical aid of any kind was available. Unused to labor, the change of climate as well as their new mode of life and diet created sickness, to which numbers succumbed. In one extreme case the mortality in the garden was so excessive that the manager deserted it, leaving the dead unburied and the dying without help.

28. The rapid deterioration in the value of tea property necessitated some explanation on the part of speculators. An outcry was raised against Government, who, it was alleged, had by its rigorous enactments so enhanced the cost of importing labor in the province as to render the cultivation of tea unprofitable. Actually, however, the measures taken by Government to secure the cooly humane treatment both on his passage up and after arrival at his destination, instead of increasing the cost of importation, materially lessened it. Possibly the cost of passage to Assam per head was raised by a few rupees, but, on the other hand, this additional expense was more than covered a hundredfold by fewer losses from death, as also the better selection of laborers which was compelled by Government supervision. It was urged that planters required no interference, that the welfare of the cooly was of more importance to them than to Government, and that they might safely be left to look after their own interest. The theory of this reasoning was excellent, but unfortunately experience had shown that it could not always be trusted in practice. It was against the interests of planters to have the blind, the maimed, the insane, and others physically unfit for labor sent up to them as coolies, yet contractors' agents and others in their employ had sent up such people. It was against their interests to make no provision for epidemics on the passage to Assam, yet such omission had taken

place. The dying had been allowed to struggle in their agony along with the living, destitute of medical aid, and scenes the most revolting to humanity had resulted. It was against the interests of planters to leave their coolies houseless on arrival, to give them insufficient food, and to make no provision for medical aid, yet all these acts of neglect had occurred.

29. No doubt they were exceptional cases, but they nevertheless demanded the interference of Government, and this interference was so exercised as to cause as little inconvenience or extra expense to planters as was consistent with attaining the object in view. As already observed, the action of Government, so far from increasing the cost of importing labor, had the opposite effect by greatly reducing it.

30. There was one point, however, in which the proceedings of Government appear to have tended materially to hasten the catastrophe in tea, and that was the ease with which speculators were allowed to become possessed of titles to waste land without either demarcation or survey. It is to be regretted that the Board of Revenue and the Government should have yielded to the pressure brought to bear on them in Calcutta in allowing so unsatisfactory a state of things, but fortunately the rush which subsequently took place to resign these lots when they were no longer required for purposes of speculation released Government from a dilemma which would have proved of a serious kind. The pen-and-ink sketches on which these lots were sold were utterly unreliable; most of them were drawn from imagination by the applicants, and were merely a few irregular ink lines on a slip of paper, with such vague boundaries as "jungles," "forest trees," "streams," &c., written at the four sides.

31. The first depression in tea in 1846 was confined to a single association, and, as has been explained already, was caused by a reckless expenditure and the fallacy which was entertained of the yielding capabilities of indigenous tracts. Nevertheless the losses of the Assam Company were attributed by the public to the undertaking being of a profitless nature. Twenty years later a similar depression, but on a much larger scale, took place, and again the popular impression pointed to tea-planting itself as in fault; thus a depreciation of tea property of all kinds prevailed during 1866, 1867, and 1868, as unreasoning as the previous infatuation and blind belief in its extraordinary value.

32. A commission was appointed by Government in 1867-68 to inquire into the causes of this depression. A mass of evidence, mostly of a highly interesting kind, was recorded, and was subsequently published along with the report of the commission.

33. A more favorable turn of affairs took place in 1869. It could not but attract attention that nearly all old gardens, notwithstanding the severe test which they had undergone during the preceding three years, were still not only in existence, but were by careful management yielding a profit to their owners. Dividends, although small, were again heard of. The quality of manufactured tea, which in the years of reckless speculation had fallen off, had greatly improved, and the prices obtained both in the Calcutta market and at home were fully remunerative.

34. As a commercial undertaking, tea-planting possesses features of a remarkably favorable nature. With suitable sale and good

management the average yield of an acre of tea-plant in full bearing may be reckoned at 400lb, which, if carefully prepared, would in the English market fetch about £40. The cost of forming a plantation, of cultivating it when formed, and manufacturing the tea, are high; nevertheless with proper and careful management a very satisfactory margin of profits can be reckoned on.

35. The amount of profit derivable from a well-planted and carefully managed tea estate is liable to fluctuate from two causes only —viz. the prices of tea in the home market, and the cost of labor in the gardens; neither of these two causes are ordinarily liable to sudden or capricious changes.

36. The evidence recorded by the Tea Commission places the cost of forming gardens at exceptionally high rates, and has reference chiefly to very large concerns managed through paid agents. There can be no doubt that the cost of forming and working gardens would be considerably less to private individuals engaged in their own accounts, and possessing a fair amount of practical experience.

37. To any person with even so small a capital as two or three thousand pounds, tea-planting would prove a most profitable undertaking. In the estimates which were furnished to the Tea Commission, the cost of planting, clearing, and cultivating an acre of tea land up to the end of the third year was given by different planters at sums varying from Rs. 230 to 500; but allowing the cost of labor used in making tea gardens to be double that used for ordinary cultivation, it would seem that even the lowest of the above estimates is greatly in excess of what tea-planting with a due regard to economy ought to cost. It must be remembered also that at the time the Tea Commission visited Assam the cost of labor was exceptionally high, and that in the haste to form gardens for sale the question of expenditure received comparatively little attention.

38. The revival of confidence in tea-planting has been extending slowly but steadily during the past three years, and at the present time the prospects of the industry are far better and brighter than they have ever been before. It is to be hoped that with the experience gained by knowledge of the causes which led to former disasters, it will continue in its present healthy course. The tabular statement in the margin gives details of cultivation and outturn during the principal eras of tea-planting.

Year.	No. of estates under distinct proprietors.	Area under cultivation in acres.	Outturn of tea in lb.	Remarks.
1850	1	1,876	2,16,000	Sole proprietorship of Assam Company (Government experimental estates not shown).
1853	10	2,425	3,66,700	Beginning of private tea enterprize.
1859	48	7,599	12,05,689	Commencement of joint-stock companies.
1865	......	......	......	Tea crisis.
1869	260	25,174	47,14,769	Revival of tea-planting
1871	295	31,303	62,51,143	Condition to date of latest returns.

No. 65, dated Dacca, the 22nd April 1873.

From—A. ABERCROMBIE, Esq., Offg. Commissioner of Dacca,
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I HAVE the honor to submit the reports of the Collector of Sylhet and the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, required by the Government of India, on the subject of the cultivation of tea.

I regret much that there has been so much delay in the preparation of these reports, but the officers of Government are not responsible for this; the managers of some few gardens delayed the whole thing, and the report could not have been ready now if I had not got the names of the gardens which were behindhand and applied to the owners or managing agents in Calcutta.

I see that some points, such as manure and the age of plants from which leaf is plucked, have escaped notice, and I regret that I cannot trust to my own knowledge of the subject to supply the omission with certainty; but I believe that in all gardens picking commences in the third year, and under favorable circumstances a little leaf is expected from two years old plants.

No. 220, dated Cachar, the 8th April 1873.

From—O. G. R. MCWILLIAM, Esq., Offg. Deputy Commissioner of Cachar,
To—The Commissioner of the Dacca Division.

I HAVE the honor to forward the statement required to be filled up in your Assistant's No. 427 of 29th August last.

2. The tenures on which lands intended for tea-planting are held in Cachar are of three kinds—the Assam rule tenure, fee-simple, and mirashdari.

3. The Assam rule tenure gave the land for 99 years at the following rates:—

One-fourth of the area of the grant rent-free for ever;
For the remaining three-fourths, 15 years rent-free;
For 10 years, at 3 annas per acre per annum;
For 74 years, at 6 annas per acre per annum;

on certain clearance conditions, viz. one-eighth of total area to be cleared and fit for cultivation in five years, one-fourth in ten years, half in 20 years, and three-fourths in 30 years.

4. Other lands were sold in fee-simple by auction at an upset price of Rs. 2-8 per acre.

5. *Land held under the district pottahs purchased from the proprietors by tea cultivators.*—This land pays rent at rates, varying from Re. 1 to Rs. 3-8 for each *hal* (about five acres): these settlements were for 20 years. Some land has been taken up for tea cultivation under the ordinary district waste land settlement rules at the following rates:—

3 years,	rent-free.	
5 „	3 annas	per acre.
5 „	6 „	„
5 „	12 „	„
12 „	Re. 1-8	„

This is liable to resettlement at the end of 30 years.

6. In May 1868 grantees under the Assam rules were allowed to apply, before December 1870, for the redemption of revenue of their grants, provided there was a *bonâ fide* tea garden on the land, and the area to be retained was reduced, if necessary, so that the uncleared area would not have a larger proportion than nine-tenths to the cleared area.

7. Besides this concession, grantees wishing to hold a compact portion of the holdings on the original rent-paying terms, might do so subject to the last proviso.

8. In 1871-72, 71 grants, aggregating 201,385 acres, were resumed for non-compliance with the conditions.

9. In 1870-71, revising survey was commenced for the reduction of the grants according to rules 12B4 and 4A, Sections V and VI of the Waste Land Rules. This was not continued in 1871-72 on account of the Lushai expedition; an attempt is being made to conclude it during the present rains, but I fear it will not be feasible, as the surveyor did not arrive in Cachar till the 14th March.

	Acres.
Area originally taken up under Assam rules	485,760
Area resumed in 1871 and relinquished under Rules 12A and 12B	209,508
Area of grants under revision for redemption or retention under the special concession of 1868	*162,438
Area of grants in fee-simple	6,585
Area of grants whose revenue has been redeemed	80,616
Area taken up by planters under district settlement rule ..	10,408
Area purchased from mirashdars	5,000

10. The climate of Cachar generally seems well suited for the cultivation of tea. It is tolerably uniform over the whole district. Excessive heat is almost unknown. There is an unusual amount of moisture in the air during the rainy months. The state of the atmosphere accompanied by moderate heat is well adapted to produce a series of flushes.

11. At first an idea prevailed that telahs (a local word for low hills) were necessary to tea cultivation, but experience has shown that the low plateaus in which the spurs of the large ranges of hills terminated, have two advantages over telahs: there is less wash or waste of soil from rain, and the land is comparatively free from stones. None of these plateaus are more than 250 feet above the level of the plain. Devices of various kinds for preventing wash of soil from the telahs have been and are practised, but they are all expensive and not very satisfactory. The heights given by the managers in the returns are, I am sure, generally wrong, and I may say that the greater part of the Cachar tea is grown at heights varying from 20 to 300 feet above the plains, or from 90 to 370 feet above sea level.

12. The only objection to the plain land is that it does not contain sufficient sand, and in the rains takes the form of mud, in which tea will not grow. In some telah gardens I have seen an attempt to utilize the wash from the telahs which collects in the ravines between

* The revised area of the 46 grants under revision will be 75,930 acres, being ten times the area of the present cultivation.

them by draining it thoroughly and setting tea-plants in it. They appear to thrive as young plants, but I cannot say how they will turn out eventually.

13. There are three kinds of tea in Cachar: the large kind, which is indigenous to the district and is considered the best, though it is troublesome in the earlier stages of cultivation.

14. The China plant is less unsatisfactory in yield and in strength of produce. Perhaps it degenerates in this climate.

15. The hybrid is not difficult to cultivate, and gives a fair return. It is preferred by most planters to the indigenous plant.

16. I cannot give the exact proportion of each kind, but I think there is about 70 per cent. of China, 20 of hybrid, and about 10 per cent. of the indigenous plant in the district.

17. There are machines for withering, rolling, and sifting the leaf. Of these the rolling machines are the most important. They are, as a general rule, a great success. On one garden 1,500 maunds of tea were made with a machine, in working which the total amount of human labor was equal to 6,000 for one day, the same quantity made by hand would have occupied 12,000 laborers for a day.

18. The first gardens were Bursangon and Gungurpar; they were opened in 1856 and worked with local labor and labor from Sylhet. The rates of pay were Rs. 2, 2-8, and 3 per month for men; women did not work. They were engaged by duffadars; they got one pie per head for each daily task. This lasted for about two years. They did not work continuously. This was found inconvenient, and the tea managers raised the rates of pay to Rs. 4, 5, and even 6 per month, according to the extent of the daily task; the laborers however, in consideration of the high rate of wages, entered into contracts for 4, 5, and even 6 months.

19. When Bengalees were not to be had, some few gardens were opened by means of hill labor.

20. The first imported laborers were brought to Cachar in 1858-59, when 400 came from Benares, Ghazeepore, Chota Nagpore, and Behar. I cannot find out what the death-rate was in transit. Captain Stewart, then Superintendent, thinks they were people rejected by the emigration agents for the Mauritius and West Indies—half-starved and diseased.

21. They were engaged for five years at nominal wages of Rs. 3, but on the task-work system they usually made from Rs. 4-8 to Rs. 6 per month. They are said to have been well housed and comfortable.

22. In the next year's reports the subject is not alluded to, but during 1860-61 there were about 5,000 laborers in this district. The mortality amongst them was most distressing. There were in that year about 36 tea gardens at work.

23. By this time the local laborers had fallen off in numbers, having almost all become petty landholders.

24. Captain Stewart describes the laborers as being invariably in a most miserable state on their arrival, the mortality in transit being *enormous*. He attributes this to the diseased state of the laborers when they started, for they were sent off by the agents for a commission of Rs. 17 per head in all states and stages of disease—maimed, blind, lame, idiots, and people quite incapable of labor. Once landed in Cachar they were treated with consideration and care, well fed and well hutted.

25. Importation seems to have been better conducted in 1862-63. There were about 9,000 imported laborers at the end of the year.

Then Act III (B.C.) of 1863 was passed, and under its provisions 11,322 coolies were imported in 1863-64. This, added to the numbers shown at the end of 1862-63 (allowance being made for mortality on the voyage and others irregularly recruited), amounts to 20,686, the number who ought to have been found on the tea gardens in May 1864; but the number returned was only 14,435, leaving 6,251 to be accounted for by expiry of former agreements, absconding laborers, and death casualties.

26. In the next year, 1864-65, 16,047 laborers started from Calcutta, of whom 477 died and 512 absconded on the way. The remainder added to the number at the end of the preceding year makes 29,493 to be accounted for. Captain Stewart reports that the mortality was very high, and large numbers absconded and became time-expired, but adds that he cannot give accurate figures.

27. Then Act VI (B.C.) of 1865 was passed, which provided for the protection and inspection of laborers in the district, and the first accurate labor returns were those for the second half of 1865.

28. In 1865 the mortality on the voyage to Cachar, occupying less than a month, was 7¼ per cent.; and for six months on the plantations, above 11·20 per cent.

29. A table at the end of this part shows the mortality rates and number of laborers subject to legislation in each half-year since the introduction of Act VI of 1865.

30. In short, an outline of labor for tea cultivation is as follows:— From 1856 to 1858 all the work was done by local laborers; from 1858 to 1862 a very inferior class of laborers from the North-West and Chota Nagpore were imported, with terrible loss of life on the journey. About this time local labor disappeared from the market. From 1863 to 1865 the number imported under supervision greatly increased, but the terrible mortality after arrival in Cachar necessitated the Regulation of 1865. The failures of 1866 caused a good deal of anxiety, but from 1866 the mortality rate has steadily decreased to a rate varying from 2 to 3 per cent. per annum.

31. The increase in the number of laborers shown in 1870 is due, not to increased importation, but to a section of Act II of 1870, which brought under the operation of the Act all laborers who, having been originally imported under any of the Labor Act, have re-engaged, under any kind of contract, at the expiry of their original engagements.

32. The most marked improvement in the condition of the laborers appeared about 1867-68.

33. At the end of 1868, besides the 14,076 laborers shown in the returns, there were about 15,000 imported laborers, time-expired, showing a total of about 29,000. Of the 15,000, Mr. Edgar mentions in his report for that year—

"There were at least 15,000 imported laborers working in the district from choice deliberately made after becoming personally acquainted with the kind of life led on tea gardens and with the work to be done in them. The majority of these laborers mean to settle in the district; many of them, coming up here while mere children,

and growing up in the tea-house and plucking-field, have become of a kind of necessity tea laborers and nothing else. •

"The cultivation of tea is now to them what the cultivation of rice is to the Bengalee native of the district. • •

"In this way there is growing up here a class of laborers skilled in cultivating and manufacturing tea, and almost as dependent on the gardens for their subsistence as Lancashire operatives are upon the factories in which they are employed."

And this state of things has lasted since the above was written.

With the present area of cultivation the labor, being supplemented by a little private recruiting, would be amply sufficient.

34. On the 31st December 1872 there were 20,020 laborers in Cachar, including those working out their first contract and those re-engaged in the province. Of these, 10,157 are described as Bengalees, 3,351 as inhabitants of Chota Nagpore, 6,312 of North-Western Provinces, 9 Nepalese, and 251 Madrassees. The total number is possibly correct, or very near the mark; but from personal observation I am convinced that the sub-division is incorrect. There are not nearly so many as 10,157 Bengalees, and very many more than 3,351 from Chota Nagpore. The returns submitted to the Inspector of Laborers are filled up by garden managers or Bengalee mohurirs, many of whom are quite ignorant of geography. To many managers every native of the country is a Bengalee, and I suspect that Bengalee being the first heading in the form, a good many put in all their laborers as Bengalees to save themselves the trouble of classifying their people. It is quite impossible to check this.

35. Besides the 20,020 laborers under Act II of 1870, I estimate that there are from 10,000 to 12,000 more imported laborers working on tea gardens without regular contracts. The census gave the total number of imported coolies as 40,561, but this includes children and infants.

36. I may say there are no Bengalee or Munipoori inhabitants of the district employed in the cultivation of tea. There are some Bengalees employed from time to time as hut-builders, and some few as hurkaroos, but the number is inconsiderable. A few indigenous hill-men are employed in clearance and cultivation in some few gardens from time to time, never continuously. I have no statistics, but I estimate the number at 800 at the outside. A few Bengalees come from Sylhet in the cold weather to work at roads and buildings. The number of laborers under original contract on 31st December 1872 was 5,036, leaving 14,984 as the number of time-expired men.

37. The results of the system of recruiting by garden sirdars are on the whole favorable, provided there is no epidemic raging at the time; it is better in every way than the contractor's system. More men than women are imported by sirdars; and for the most part the men are of a better class physically. But during the cholera months last year the mortality among sirdars' laborers in transit was higher than among contractors' laborers.

38. The average rates of pay among laborers under their original agreement are Rs. 5 and 4 respectively.

This sum is divided by 26, number of working days in a month, and the pay is regulated according to the amount of work done: each portion

is called a hazri. Some laborers, especially men employed in rolling and women at leaf-plucking, earn very much more than their full hazries in the tea-making season. This refers only to the comparatively small number under original contracts. Other laborers receive at least Rs. 12 per year in addition to their regular pay. On the whole, I should say that for the whole district the average pay of a man, including bonuses, is about Rs. 5-4, and that of a woman Rs. 4 per month.

The hillmen work by fits and starts, doing job work.

39. The decrease in the mortality rate is satisfactory. It appears to be due to several causes:—

1st.—There have been no new gardens opened in remote situations buried in jungle and far from bazaars and villages.

2nd.—There have been fewer laborers imported.

40. With regard to these two points, I think it may be taken for granted there must be a high mortality among large bodies of newly imported laborers, and so also in newly opened jungly gardens; and where these two causes co-exist the mortality must be very excessive.

3rd.—Improved medical supervision.

4th.—Greatly improved management and accommodation.

5th.—Increase in the number of bazaars.

The percentages of mortality for six monthly periods are given below; unfortunately they are not worked from uniform basis.

41. Up to the end of 1870 the total numbers include those under their original agreements and those who, being engaged in the province, were registered before a Magistrate. The latter class was very small since 1871; they consist of laborers under their original contracts and all those supposed to come under the definition contained in Section 117 of Act II of 1870, the number of whom is, I am convinced, much under the mark.

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Number of laborers at the end of half-year.	Number on whom cess has been levied.	Number of deaths for the half-year.	Percentage of deaths for the half-year.	Percentage of deaths for the year.
1865, 2nd half	21,878	21,682	2,450	11·20	
1866 1st „	24,293	24,166	1,280	5·66	11·26
1866 2nd „	19,886	19,774	1,200	5·60	
1867 1st „	19,160	19,005	532	2·79	7·20
1867 2nd „	16,609	16,609	787	4·41	
1868 1st „	15,700	15,700	310	1·92	4·92
1868 2nd „	14,076	14,076	437	3·0	
1869 1st „	12,296	12,296	280	2·12	3·24
1869 2nd „	11,087	11,087	355	1·12	
1870 1st „	19,886	7,698	166	1·0	2·4
1870 2nd „	19,122	5,770	291	1·4	
1871 1st „	18,854	4,227	186	·97	2·11
1871 2nd „	18,623	4,566	214	1·14	
1872 1st „	20,982	4,731	310	1·5	2·65
1872 2nd „	20,020	5,036	236	1·15	

42. In the Appendix will be found the only letters I have received from planters on the subject of paragraph 5 of Mr. Secretary Hume's letter. Four are from proprietors, and two from managers who have not, as far as I am aware, any direct interest in tea.

43. The obstacles believed to exist by these gentlemen may be divided as follows:—

I.—The difficulty of obtaining labor at low rates.
II.—The difficulty of maintaining discipline under the operation of the Acts at present in force.
III.—Shortness of period of contract allowed.
IV.—Inconvenience of attending courts.
V.—Inspection of laborers.
VI.—Rules for the sale of waste lands.
VII.—Bad roads.

44. *I. Difficulty in obtaining labor at low rates.*—This, it is urged, might be lessened by removing the regulations for recruiting and transport of laborers to the district. The experience of the first few years during which laborers were imported into Cachar showed that regulations were necessary; they were undoubtedly much more imperatively necessary then than now, when fewer laborers are imported. A system of recruiting by garden sirdars, properly regulated, is apparently about the most advantageous to employers and laborers. Local labor is almost unknown in tea cultivation, as might be expected in a country like Cachar, which in itself is a mere colony from the eastern parts of Bengal, and where the cultivation of waste land is so lucrative as to greatly enhance the value of common labor. A very few tea gardens are helped from time to time by aborigines who live on or near their grants at low rates of pay.

45. *II. Desertion is a good deal complained of, but its importance and extent is much exaggerated.* There are, it is true, some laborers who go about and take bonuses, executing an agreement to serve for a year, and soon after abscond and take a fresh bonus, entering into a new agreement elsewhere; but a proper system of registration, such as is contemplated in the new Bill, will, as shown by Mr. Alexander of Coya in his letter, prevent this. Some planters would like to get their laborers flogged for absconding; but as a rule laborers do not leave a garden where they are well treated, or the situation of which is tolerably good. They abscond from hard masters and jungly gardens, as is quite natural, as they cannot help comparing their lot with that of laborers in well-managed gardens in and near the cultivated parts of the district. The fact is that land has been taken up and cultivated in situations where it is unreasonable to expect to retain labor at low rates.

46. There are some complaints made of insolence and insubordination, &c., but of this I have observed very little. In cases which have come before me judicially, I have generally found the employers to blame. In large and accessible gardens the laborers know exactly what their position is, and naturally make the best of it.

47. As to flogging being made a penalty for breach of civil contract, the proposition in itself appears unwarrantable; but were it even just, I am perfectly sure that it would be highly inexpedient. The

threat of getting a laborer flogged by the Magistrate would be used by unscrupulous employers for compulsory purposes.

48. Other planters would like to have Honorary Magistrates chosen from among their number to settle criminal cases. I do not think this would answer, and it would certainly be misunderstood by the laborers, however honest the demeanour of the Magistrates might be. One employer would allow an appeal to the District Magistrate on the condition of enhancement of punishment if the original order were upheld.

49. *III. Some would increase the term of agreement from three to five years.* They do not seem to consider that the effect of this would probably be vastly to decrease the number of recruits, unless they think that the ignorant recruits blindly rush into their agreements, and that three and five years are much the same to them. The loss to each cooly by increasing the term from three to five years would be at least Rs. 24, often Rs. 32, and sometimes as much as Rs. 40, because old coolies re-engaging expect a bonus of from Rs. 12 to 20 for each year of the new agreement.

50. *IV. The inconvenience of attending courts in order to get laborers punished for breach of the law is a necessary evil.* There is one sub-division already in the district, and I do not see the necessity for one anywhere else. Unfortunately there are no natives of sufficient standing to be Honorary Magistrates, and, as I have said before, I think there is an objection to planters trying cases between other planters and laborers.

51. *V. Inspection of coolies is thought by some employers to lessen the manager's authority on the garden.* I really cannot see how inspection, if properly carried out, lessens necessary authority exercised within proper limits. It certainly does not in any other matters; why should it in tea-planting? My experience is that inspection of laborers is comparatively of little use, and that really serious abuses are brought to light generally directly on complaint to the courts, and that complaints at inspection visits are usually of a frivolous nature. The inspection of lines, &c., is necessary, especially in the case of a new or remote garden, but might be done as well by a Magistrate as an Inspector.

52. In the present state of the law (Act II (B.C.) of 1870), the special legislation is, so far as I can see, greatly on the side of the employer rather than on that of the laborer. The laborer is almost invariably punished under some provision of the special law, and the employer under the Penal Code. The power of arrest without warrant is in itself an enormous privilege and advantage to the employer, and all the laborer gets in exchange for this restriction on liberty is that he shall be properly housed and get medical attendance, and have opportunities of getting proper food and earning sufficient money to purchase it. If this power of arrest were withdrawn to-morrow, it would be greatly to the disgust of those who join in the outcry against special legislation for the tea districts.

53. *VI. The rules for the sale of waste land.*—It is now a matter of notoriety that much of the land settled under the old Assam rules and the waste land rules of 1862 was not really waste land at all, but

was, in many instances, covered with valuable timber, or included village sites and land suitable for ordinary village cultivation. In course of time it came to be known that much injustice was done to hillmen and others, whose rights were infringed by the almost indiscriminate grant of lands to applicants. Certain *ad interim* rules were published in 1871, which insisted on greater care being taken in ascertaining such rights and in the definition of the grants, than had formerly been the practice.

54. There are two points in the *ad interim* rules which seem to be most objected to; one is the clause which renders a special report necessary when the land applied for has been cultivated within twenty years. This is, I presume, intended simply to prevent an infringement of old rights. The other is, that no land is to be sold as waste land which is covered with valuable timber. One gentleman goes so far as to hint that the operation of these rules will be absolutely prohibitory for there is no land fit for tea cultivation that is not covered with valuable timber or has not been joomed within twenty years.

55. Complaints are made of the long time it takes to get possession of a grant applied for. In a country where survey is impossible for more than five months, and where the district survey is so imperfect as ours, the actual survey and subsequent scrutiny of the ameen's papers is a matter which occupies many months. The sale of a tract of land in fee-simple is no small matter to be done offhand, as apparently was the practice at the first sales under the old rules. It was this deplorable laxity of inquiry and ready alienation of land in former days which has led applicants to expect similar hasty settlements now.

56. *VII. Two of the parties refer to the badness of the roads.*—I don't wish to over-exaggerate the importance of the increase of road communication made during the last eight or ten years; but I doubt whether there is a district in Eastern Bengal with a greater number of miles of road than Cachar, in proportion to its population and cultivated area, and this is being increased every year.

57. I may add that I have received no remarks on these points from any of the leading planters. I believe the feeling amongst them to be not one of perfect satisfaction, but that they fear change, and would rather suffer from what they believe to be disadvantages than, by inviting discussion, risk the chance of changes which would make them worse off than they believe themselves to be now.

58. From this I would except the feeling against the strictness of the new waste land rules, which is almost universal. The only persons who do not object to them are those who have considerable tracts of land fit for cultivation, the value of which has of course been greatly enhanced by the change in the rules.

Statement illustrative of the state

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
					Area in acres.			
	Province.	District.	Names of plantations.	Approximate average elevation.	Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.
1	Bengal.	Cachar.	Areottipore and Furdwanpore.	......	493 0 0	90 0 0	1,119 0 0	1,702 0 0
2			Majargram ...	100 feet	235 0 0	190 0 0	737 0 0	1,162 0 0
3			Kallain ...	50 feet above plain, or 130 above sea.	98 0 0	97 0 0	5 0 0	200 0 0
4			Balladhun ...	From 50 feet to 150 feet.	100 0 0	14 0 0	1,000 0 0	1,114 0 0
5			Luckiporo ...	50 feet above dhan khet.	......	60 0 0	50 0 0	110 0 0
6			Massimpore ...	50 feet ditto ...	304 0 0	40 0 0	200 0 0	544 0 0
			Chuncoorie ...	......	277 0 0	5 0 0	...	282 0 0
7			Khorâil ...	......	50 0 0	78 0 0	472 0 0	600 0 0
			Elgin	... ..	78 0 0	5 0 0	430 0 0	513 0 0
8			Baglaghat ...	......	179 0 0	40 0 0	25 0 0	244 0 0
9			Burkhola ...	......	272 0 14	78 0 0	619 2 0	969 2 14
10			Buro Jallingah ...	250 feet ...	400 0 0	6 0 0	...	406 0 0
11			Doloo	50 feet above dhan, or 72 feet above sea.	300 0 0	165 0 0	764 0 0	1,229 0 0
12			Madura ...	80 feet	104 0 0	12 0 0	95 0 0	211 0 0
13			Lydiacherra ...	20 to 30 feet above dhan, or 75 above sea.	......	90 0 0	200 0 0	290 0 0
14			Surrispore ...	......	468 0 0	80 0 0	2,186 0 0	2,734 0 0
15			Sreecoma ...	......	100 0 0	......	3,000 0 0	3,100 0 0
16			Monacherra ...	......	...	...	.	560 0 0
17			Rampore ...	40 feet above dhan	60 0 0	117 0 0	412 0 0	589 0 0
18			Kunchunpore ...	150 feet ...	400 0 0	..	1,822 0 0	2,222 0 0
19			Cossipore ...	......	115 0 0	79 0 0	800 0 0	994 0 0
20			Kukicherra ...	......	150 0 0	50 0 0	30 0 0	230 0 0
21			Woodlands ...	......	..	..	..	200 0 0
22			Ballacherra ..	......	125 0 0	75 0 0	...	200 0 0
23			Tilka and Rupaibali.	......	125 0 0	...	1,196 0 0	1,321 0 0
				....	8 0 0	.	527 0 0	535 0 0
24			Irungmara ...	Same height as Silchar.	225 0 0	30 0 0	572 0 0	827 0 0
25			Kosekandy ...	......	810 0 0	20 0 0	...	830 0 0
26			Katerail ...	150 feet ...	180 0 0	75 0 0	...	255 0 0
27			Doodpatli ...	......	450 0 0	6 0 0	...	456 0 0
28			Allni ...	510 feet ...	190 0 0	...	1,810 0 0	2,000 0 0
29			Koya ...	200 feet ...	100 0 0	32 0 0	...	132 0 0
30			Kallaincherra ...	700 feet ...	280 0 0	20 0 0	200 0 0	500 0 0
31			Jallirbund ...	70 to 80 feet ...	175 0 0	...	...	175 0 0
32			Doyapore ...	220 feet ...	119 0 0	33 0 0	20 0 0	172 0 0
33			Doolargram ...	200 to 100 feet ...	64 0 0	12 0 0	40 0 0	116 0 0
34			Dedarkhoosh ...	200 feet ...	100 0 0	30 0 0	100 0 0	230 0 0
35			West Jallingah ...	.....	120 0 0	100 0 0	1,520 0 0	1,740 0 0
			Bawaljoor and Meherpore.	5 feet	20 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	20 0 0
37			Dwarbund Jogirbund.	......	160 0 0	20 0 0	1,276 0 0	1,456 0 0
38			Kuttul ...	50 feet above Chutta Bheel.	450 0 0	50 0 0	...	500 0 0
39			Sildhubee ...	......	206 0 0	0 0 0	...	206 0 0
			Claverhouse ...	......	3,562 0 0	0 0 0	...	3,562 0 0
40			Larsingah ...	300 feet above dhan	160 0 0	114 0 0	...	274 0 0
41			Narainpore ...	......	250 0 0	20 0 0	.	270 0 0
42			Chundeeghat and Rangamati.	200 feet ...	150 0 0	50 0 0	50 0 0	250 0 0

of Tea Culture in Cachar in 1872.

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Approximate yield in 1872 in lb Avoirdupois.										
Black.										
Congou.	Congou and Souchong.	Congou and Pekoe.	Pekoe.	Pekoe Souchong.	Pekoe and Pekoe Souchong.	Pekoe Souchong and Souchong.	Pekoe of a different sort.	Broken Pekoe.	Pekoe and broken Pekoe.	Souchong and broken Pekoe.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	32,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	20,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
2,800	...	...	18,160	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16,000	...	...	56,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
} 3,107	...	...	17,890	55,140	...	...	...	20,822	...	...
4,160	...	...	16,537	10,575	...	...	...	6,570	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56,000	...	...	..
10,000	...	...	40,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12,000	..	...	48,000	...	...	50,000	...	...	...	...
4,000	..	...	12,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
1,040	...	...	1,440	5,520	...	..	...	...	..	..
...	...	...	...	.	..	...	...	...	...	...
1,370	...	...	26,370	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
4,000	...	...	51,904	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
..	..	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
5,000	...	...	15,350	7,000	..	...	...	...	...	.
3,507	...	..	5,222	...	...	...	...	...	..	.
10,400	...	..	24,000	...	...	...	...		..	...
1,000	..	..	15,000	...	...	..	...	4,000	...	...
100	...	...	1,300	...	...	...	...	400	..	...
...	..	...	...	10,618	...	...	...	...	15,063	...
19,425	...	...	...	35,700	...	...	...	...	...	..
375	..	...	6,150	5,600	...	...	...	...	..	...
6,800	...	...	102,000	...	..	...	...	...	20,400	..
2,080	...	...	17,680	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..
6,590	...	...	22,070	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
2,560	...	...	10,608	18,720	...	...	...	..	...	...
...	...	..	13,500	.	...	...	...	2,850	..	...
2,388	...	...	6,820	2,599	...	..	...	...	...	...
994	...	...	17,282	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
12,000	...	...	17,000	...	..	...	...		...	...
1,100	...	...	...	1,400	...	...	...	400	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,260	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	..	..	...	...	..	...	...	...
..	...	51,476	...	...	...	...	...		...	...
6,488	...	...	28,017	...	..	...	...	10,607	...	...
1,000	..	...	16,000	...	...	...	..	...	...	..

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea

					20	21	22	23	24
					APPROXIMATE YIELD IN				
					Black.				
	PROVINCE.	DISTRICT.	Names of plantations.	Approximate average elevation.	Souchong.	Souchong and Fannings.	Broken Souchong.	Fannings.	Broken Fannings.
1	BENGAL.	CACHAR.	Arcottipore and Furdwanpore.	......	...	...	...	...	...
2			Majargram ...	100 feet ...	8,000	...	...	8,000	...
3			Kallain ..	50 feet above plain, or 130 above sea.	12,000	...	...	3,000	...
4			Balladhun ...	From 50 feet to 150 feet.	4,240	...	..	...	...
5			Luckipore ...	50 feet above dhan khet.	...	...	...	...	...
6			Massimpore ...	50 feet ditto ...	...	...	...	...	...
7			Chincoorie ... / Khorâil ... / Elgin	......	7,480	...	...	...	...
8			Baglaghat ...	......	4,755	...	...	..	...
9			Burkhola ..	......	...	.	..	8,000	...
10			Buro Jallingah ...	250 feet ...	20,500	...	5,000	...	...
11			Doloo	50 feet above dhan, or 72 feet above sea.	...	...	.	14,000	...
12			Madura ...	80 feet	16,600	.	...	..	...
13			Lydiacherra ...	20 to 30 feet above dhan, or 75 above sea.	...		..	..	
14			Surrispore ...	......	...	...	...	...	...
15			Sreecoona ...	......	...	.	..	...	...
16			Monacherra ...	......	...	...	...	...	...
17			Rampore ...	40 feet above dhan	9,875	...	...	1,000	...
18			Kanchunpore ..	150 feet ..	54,054	...	...	2,042	...
19			Cossipore ...	......	...	...	...	...	...
20			Kukicherra ...	.....	...	..	...	1,500	...
21			Woodlands ...	.....	10,507	..	...	8,764	...
22			Ballacherra ...	......	...	...	...	10,000	...
23			Tilka and Rupaibali.	......	1,000	...	...	...	...
				.....	100	..	...	...	...
24			Irungmara ...	Same height as Silchar.	10,936	...	...	14,625	...
25			Kosekandy ...	.....	18,450	...	...	...	...
26			Kaetrail ...	150 feet ..	...	...	...	2,275	...
27			Doodpatli ...	......	...	...	...	6,800	...
28			Allui ...	510 feet ...	...	...	...	1,040	...
29			Koya ...	203 feet ...	...	...	...	...	...
30			Kallaincherra ..	700 ...	...	...	...	7,550	37,370
31			Jallirbund ...	70 to 80 feet ..	...	...	...	4,900	...
32			Doyapore ...	200 feet ...	12,260	...	...	190	...
33			Doolargram ...	200 to 100 feet ...	2,048	...	...	558	...
34			Dedarkhoosh ..	200 feet ...	9,878	...	...	1,846	...
35			West Jallingah .	......	...	...	10,000	.	...
36			Bowaljoor and Meherpore.	5 feet	...	...	...	...	...
37			Dwarbund Jogirbund. ...	......	...	13,100	...	...	...
38			Kuttul ...	50 feet above Chutta Bheel.	...	...	...	...	...
39			Sildhubee ... / Claverhouse ...	...... /	...	..	...	...	...
40			Larsingah ...	300 feet above dhan	...	...	...	711	...
41			Narainpore ..	......	...	.	...	1,351	...
42			Chundeeghat and and Rangamati	200 feet ...	6,000	...	...	4,000	...

Culture in Cachar in 1872.—(*Continued.*)

25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS.										Average yield in lb per acre of mature plant.
					Green.					
Broken Tea.	Bhoea.	Broken Mummara.	Dust.	Total.	Young Hyson.	Hyson.	Imperial.	Total.	Grand Total.	
										lb.
...	...	...	...	112,000	...	..	...	...	112,000	320 to 400
1,000	..	...	...	52,000	...	...	...	...	52,000	240
..	...	...	.	35,000	...	...	...	...	35,000	300
2,800	..	...	...	28,000	...	...	...	...	28,000	280
..	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	60
...	...	...	...	72,000	...	..	...	...	72,000	240
840	...	6,225	..	111,501	..	..	...	...	111,504	275
8,430	.	...	1,035	52,062	...	...	...	...	52,062	296
.	...	..	...	64,000	...	...	...	...	64,000	237¼
...	.	.	..	76,000	...	...	...	..	76,000	190
...	...	...	...	124,000	800	500	800	2,100	126,100	400
...	...	...	...	32,000	...	.	..	...	32,000	308
..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	....
...	..	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	116,000	247
...	...	...	..	8,000	..	...	...	...	8,000	80
...	...	...	...	96,000	...	...	...	...	96,000	229½
...	...	...	...	38,615	...	...	...	...	38,615	480
...	...	...	...	112,000	...	...	...	...	112,000	280
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	240
...	...	...	...	28,850	...	...	...	...	28,850	190
..	...	...	...	28,000	...	...	...	...	28,000	140
...	...	...	...	41,400	...	...	...	...	44,100	335
...	...	...	...	21,000	...	...	...	...	21,000	164
..	...	...	...	1,900	...	...	...	...	1,900	237
...	...	...	...	51,242	...	...	...	...	51,242	227½
...	...	...	...	73,575	...	...	...	...	73,575	177¾
...	...	...	...	14,400	...	...	...	...	14,400	80
...	...	...	...	136,000	...	...	...	...	136,000	302-3½
...	...	...	...	20,800	...	...	...	...	20,800	190
...	...	...	...	34,000	...	...	...	...	34,000	304
...	...	...	...	73,580	...	...	...	...	73,580	300
...	...	...	...	36,788	...	...	...	...	36,788	...
...	...	...	...	28,800	...	...	...	...	28,800	240
...	...	...	...	14,413	...	...	...	...	14,413	267
...	...	...	...	30,000	...	...	...	...	30,000	300
7,000	...	...	...	46,000	...	...	...	...	46,000	400
...	...	...	...	3,200	...	...	...	...	3,200	160
...	...	...	...	39,360	...	...	...	...	39,360	246
...	...	...	...	112,000	..	...	...	...	112,000	250
...	...	...	...	39,563	...	...	...	...	39,563	192
...	...	...	...	26,628	...	...	...	...	26,628	74½
...	...	...	...	52,187	...	...	...	...	52,187	320
...	...	...	...	46,463	...	...	...	151,024	197,487	...
...	...	...	...	27,000	...	...	...	...	27,000	108
...	...	...	...							

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Area in acres.			
Province.	District.	Names of plantations.	Approximate average elevation.	Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.
43		Goomra and Jellalpore.	100 feet ...	330 0 0	20 0 0	50 0 0	400 0 0
44		Coocheela ...	......	494 0 0	58 0 0	75 0 0	627 0 0
45		Durmiakhall ...	30 feet ...	50 0 0	20 0 0	60 0 0	130 0 0
46		Chundipore ...	500 feet above level of sea.	1,100 0 0	...	6,400 0 0	7,500 0 0
47		Jhalnacherra ...	200 to 250 feet ...	200 0 0	...	3,800 0 0	4,000 0 0
48		Lallamukh ...	65 feet... ...	400 0 0	75 0 0	75 0 0	550 0 0
49		Boroonchorra ...	......	75 0 0	...	...	75 0 0
50		Ainakhall ...	150 feet ...	850 0 0	...	5,719 0 0	6,569 0 0
51		Borakhai ...	100 feet ...	500 0 0	10 0 0	80 0 0	590 0 0
52		Monierkhall ...	......	97 0 0	2 0 0	...	99 0 0
		Rukni ..	......	100 0 0	...	...	100 0 0
53		Dhubidhur and Bhoobundhur.	......	...	...	...	220 0 0
54		Dilkhoosh ...	......	120 0 0	20 0 0	100 0 0	240 0 0
55		Durgacoona ...	40 feet above bheel	256 0 0	20 0 0	13 0 0	289 0 0
56		Mynadhur ...	......	70 0 0	10 0 0	...	80 0 0
57		Ammarbund ...	200 feet. ...	217 0 0	1 0 0	449 0 0	667 0 0
		Khaspore ...	......	...	1,361 0 0	6,003 0 0	737 0 0
58		Burmbraes ...	......	600 0 0	100 0 0	5,000 0 0	5,700 0 0
59		Binnakandy ...	300 feet ...	436 0 0	60 0 0	70 0 0	566 0 0
60	Bengal.	Cachar.	Natwanpore ...	180 to 200 feet above sea level.	260 0 0	...	...	260 0 0
61		Bierumpore ...	85 feet uncertain..	260 0 0	13 0 0	...	273 0 0
62		Kalinuggur ...	......	150 0 0	...	250 0 0	400 0 0
63		Silcoorie ...	......	510 0 0	...	9,490 0 0	10,000 0 0
64		Pallirbund ...	......	350 0 0	...	...	350 0 0
65		Doopatli teellah...	......	80 0 0	22 0 0	40 0 0	142 0 0
66		South Halgunga...	......	206 0 0	...	...	206 0 0
67		Dhurmkhal .	......	199 0 0	10 0 0	100 0 0	309 0 0
68		Taraporo gardens	70 feet ...	1,000 0 0	150 0 0	6,000 0 0	7,150 0 0
69		Bowalia ...	200 feet ...	137 0 0	20 0 0	60 0 0	217 0 0
70		Jeereeghat, No. II	......	140 0 0	...	...	140 0 0
71		Dhulchera ...	100 feet ...	183 0 0	50 0 0	400 0 0	633 0 0
72		Bursongun ...	......	200 0 0	145 0 0	285 0 0	630 0 0
73		Jeereeghat, No. I	......	150 0 0	...	...	150 0 0
74		Kurkuria ...	......	133 0 0	36 0 0	1,796 0 0	1,965 0 0
75		Salganga ...	150 feet ...	62 0 0	80 0 0	660 0 0	802 0 0
76		Kallacherra ...	......	...	...	..	610 0 0
77		Bundookmara ...	50 feet ...	500 0 0	...	2,500 0 0	3,000 0 0
78		Appin ...	75 feet ...	100 0 0	60 0 0	840 0 0	1,000 0 0
79		Kutticherra ...	......	306 2 0	...	40 0 0	346 2 0
80		Rupachera ...	76 feet ...	137 0 0	23 2 0	35 0 0	195 2 0
			Total ...	19,965 0 14	3,124 3 0	66,265 1 0	90,975 0 14

Culture in Cachar in **1872.**—(*Continued.*)

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS.										
Black.										
Congou.	Congou and Souchong.	Congou and Pekoe.	Pekoe.	Pekoe and Souchong.	Pekoe and Pekoe Souchong.	Pekoe Souchong and Souchong.	Pekoe of a different sort.	Broken Pekoe.	Pekoe and broken Pekoe.	Souchong and broken Pekoe.
5,000	…	…	60,000	25,000	…	…	…	10,000	…	…
1,805	…	…	74,795	6,600	..	…	…	…	…	…
…	…	…		…	…	…	…	…	…	…
6,000	…	…	100,000	…	..	…	…	…	…	…
…	…	…	13,451	4,710	…	…	…	5,994	…	1,289
25,420	…	…	47,000	49,270	…	…	…	…	…	…
4,000	…	…	8,000	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
..	41,600	…	166,400	…	…	…	…	..	…	…
…	…	…	52,000	…	…	…	…	45,600	…	…
5,306	…	…	…	6,623	…	…	…	…	…	…
3,715	…	…	…	1,863	…	…	…	…	…	…
11,519	…	…	2,337	9,581	…	…	…	…	…	…
1,920	…	…	25,600	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
20,000	…	…	30,335	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
4,068	…	…	34,291	..	…	..	…	5,957	…	…
…	…	…	1,340	…	…	…	…	320	…	…
6,668	…	…	22,210	19,705	…	…	…	15,384	…	…
2,072	…	…	61,319	381	…	…	…	26,234	..	…
…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	..
…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
…	13,000	…	…	…	21,000	…	..	…	…	..
…	..	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
11,934	…	…	45,726	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
1,644	…	…	14,326	…	…	…	…	…	…	..
48,560	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
8,000	…	…	24,000	12,000	..	…	…	…	…	…
7,410	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	217,600	…
1,360	…	…	22,140	…	…	…	10,811	…	…	…
…	…	…	..	…	…	..	…	…	…	…
…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	..	…	…
80	…	…	13,140	…	…	…	…	9,800	…	…
…	…	…	…	…	…	..	…	…	…	…
770	…	…	14,781	…	…	…	…	5,086	…	…
..	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
3,350	…	…	25,310	16,475	…	..	…	…	…	…
2,409	…	…	11,735	…	…	12,681	…	…	…	…
323,621	54,600	51,476	1,529,036	305,080	21,000	62,681	66,811	170,024	279,323	1,289

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea

	Province.	District.	Names of plantations.	Approximate average elevation.	20	21	22	23	24
					Approximate yield in				
					Black.				
					Souchong.	Souchong and Fannings.	Broken Souchong.	Fannings.	Broken Fannings.
43	Bengal.	Cachar.	Goomra and Jelalpore ...	100 feet ...	...	...	...	...	...
44			Coochella ...	......	...	...	...	...	...
45			Durmiakhall ...	30 feet ...	...	...	...	...	...
46			Chundipore ...	500 feet above level of sea.	60,000	...	...	4,000	...
47			Jhalnacherra ...	200 to 250 feet ...	...	...	...	...	...
48			Lallamukh ...	65 feet ...	...	...	...	4,710	...
49			Boroocherra ...	......	...	...	...	...	...
50			Ainakhall ...	150 feet ...	...	...	..	..	.
51			Borakhai ...	100 feet ...	...	...	...	6,400	...
52			Moniorkhall ...	......	...	...	..	...	...
			Rukni ...	......	...	...	...	...	...
53			Dhubidhur and Bhoobundhur.	......	...	...	...	563	...
54			Dilkhoosh ...	......	...	...	...	360	...
55			Durgacoona ...	40 feet above bheel	...	...	...	...	...
36			Mynadhur ...	......	...	...	...	...	...
57			Ammarbund ...	200 feet ...	10,462	...	...	2,905	...
			Khaspore ...	......	232	...	...	..	...
58			Burnibraes ...	......	9,610	...	...	9,750	...
59			Binnakandy ...	300 feet ...	43,846	...	...	...	...
60			Natwanpore ..	180 to 200 feet above sea level.	...	...	...	...	...
61			Bierampore ...	85 feet uncertain...	...	...	...	...	...
62			Kalinuggur ...	......	...	...	...	...	...
63			Silcoorie ...	......	...	...	...	...	...
64			Pallirbund ...	......	8,933	...	...	...	...
65			Doopath teellah ...	......	2,806	...	...	3,867	...
66			South Halgunga ..	......	...	...	...	...	...
67			Dhurumkhall ...	......	...	...	...	903	...
68			Tarapore gardens..	70 feet ...	59,040	...	...	44,640	...
69			Bowalia ...	200 feet ...	20,040	...	...	1,124	...
70			Jeereeghat, No. II	......	...	...	...	...	...
71			Dhulcherra ...	100 feet ...	...	...	...	...	...
72			Bursongun ...	......	9,690	...	...	...	...
73			Jeereeghat, No. I	......	...	...	...	...	...
74			Kurkuria ...	......	53,474	...	...	...	...
75			Salganga ...	150 feet ...	...	...	...	...	...
76			Kallacherra ...	......	...	...	...	...	...
77			Bundookmara ...	50 feet ...	...	...	...	...	...
78			Appin ...	75 feet ...	...	...	...	...	...
79			Kutticherra ...	......	2,415	...	...	19,748	...
80			Rupacherra ...	79 feet ...	...	...	...	1,989	...
				Total ...	440,501	13,100	15,000	203,411	37,370

Culture in Cachar in 1872.—(*Continued.*)

25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS.										Average yield in lb per acre of mature plants.
					Green.					
Broken Tea.	Bhoea.	Broken Munmara.	Dust.	Total.	Young Hyson.	Hyson.	Imperial.	Total.	Grand total.	
										lb.
...	...	...	...	100,000	...	...	...	...	100,000	380
...	...	...	...	83,200	...	...	...	...	83,000	......
...	...	...	...	8,000	...	...	...	...	8,000	160
...	...	...	...	170,000	...	...	...	...	170,000	168
...	...	...	...	25,444	...	...	...	...	25,444	127¼
...	...	...	...	126,400	...	...	...	...	126,400	316
...	...	...	...	12,000	...	...	...	...	12,000	160
...	...	...	...	208,000	...	...	...	...	208,000	245
...	...	...	...	104,000	...	...	...	...	104,000	......
...	...	...	...	11,929	...	...	...	...	11,929	123
...	...	...	...	5,578	...	...	...	...	5,578	139
...	...	...	...	24,000	...	...	...	...	24,000	184
...	...	...	...	27,880	...	...	...	...	27,880	232⅓
...	...	...	...	50,335	...	...	...	...	50,335	196
...	...	...	...	13,600	...	...	...	...	13,600	194⅞
...	...	...	435	58,118	...	...	...	...	58,118	267½ [illegible]
...	...	...	...	1,892	...	...	...	...	1,892	47
...	...	...	2,448	85,775	...	...	...	...	85,775	......
...	4,815	...	...	138,667	...	...	...	...	138,667	318
...	...	...	...	64,000	...	...	...	...	64,000	246
...	...	...	...	23,000	...	...	...	...	23,000	120
8,000	...	...	...	42,000	...	...	...	...	42,000	280
...	...	...	...	125,960	...	...	...	...	125,960	......
...	...	...	...	66,593	...	...	...	...	66,593	......
...	...	...	...	22,640	...	...	...	...	22,640	283
...	...	...	...	48,560	...	...	...	...	48,560	235¾
...	...	...	...	44,903	...	...	...	...	44,903	225
...	...	...	...	328,720	...	...	...	...	328,720	328
...	2,761	...	...	58,536	...	...	...	...	58,536	259 5/7
...	...	...	...	34,160	...	...	...	...	34,160	244
...	...	...	...	50,700	...	...	...	...	50,700	277 3/4
...	...	...	...	32,710	...	...	...	...	32,710	130
...	...	...	...	10,400	...	...	...	...	10,400	......
...	...	...	...	25,981	...	...	...	...	25,981	197
...	...	...	...	18,880	...	...	...	...	18,880	304½
...	...	...	...	100,000	...	...	...	...	100,000	156¼
...	...	...	...	87,656	...	...	...	...	87,656	175
...	...	...	...	34,400	...	...	...	...	34,400	344
...	...	...	...	67,298	...	...	...	...	67,298	219
...	...	...	...	28,814	...	...	...	...	28,814	240
31,070	7,576	6,225	3,918	4,614,059	800	500	800	153,124	4,883,183	......

O. G. R. McWilliam,
Offg. Deputy Commissioner.

T

Dated Koyah, Hylakandy, the 14th October 1872.

From—C. A. ALEXANDER, Esq.,

To—O. G. R. McWILLIAM, Esq., Officiating Deputy Commissioner of Cachar.

I HAVE the pleasure of enclosing the statistics required on tea culture of this garden. The form is not one calculated to obtain the full information desired, but I have added such as I believe is required.

Unsuitable soil signifies heavy and cold, strong, sandy, and land covered with sun-grass, and land flooded in the rains.

With reference to the existence of obstacles to the full development of tea cultivation, I beg to submit the following remarks and suggestions.

It is well known among planters that, in Cachar at least, the want of laborers, the enormous expense of importing them, the uncertainty of retaining them after they are imported, are the principal obstacles and obstructions to the further development of tea. It is also well known that proprietors decline, as a rule, to extend their present cultivation in any way if by so doing it will necessitate importing coolies.

It is noticed on every garden, the growing insolent, defiant, and insubordinate manner of coolies towards their employers, and during my ten years' residence in the district, never saw it so bad as it is now.

It can only arise from one cause—over-legislation on the cooly's behalf. The inspecting and re-inspecting during transit, on arrival, and on the garden itself, has helped to fill his mind with the idea that he is of more importance than his master; but as the master has raised him from obscure poverty, fed, clothed, and housed him, given him less to do for his pay than he would have to perform in his own village, provides him with medicine and medical attendence, and pays him a rate of wages he never dreamed of a few weeks previously,—having done this, and more, for the cooly's comfort, he but asks that the cooly shall be made to fulfil his part of the agreement; and is it not reasonable to suppose and expect that the Government would legislate equally at least for both? Yet we find in practice that the law is solely in favor of the coolie.

In prosecutions under Act II of 1872 the *onus* of proof is in every case thrown on the employer; he is also compelled, under heavy penalties, to recruit in a certain groove, unreasonable and expensive. He transports the cooly to the garden in a manner out of all character with the cooly's previous habits or inclinations, and on the very day of the cooly arriving at his destination he may abscond and join some other garden, where, when found, he cannot be touched without a warrant (*vide* sections 102-103), and when arrested and convicted, instead of a real punishment—sharp, short, and decisive—the employer is again deprived of the cooly's services for, say, a month at the time his services are of the greatest value to him, and for which he has been at so much trouble and expense to secure.

In jail, as at present managed, they do less work than on the gardens, while they are associated with the worst of characters, whose society does not tend to their improvement: in fact, they leave jail with a better knowledge of the ways and means of again absconding, which they invariably do. The planter then has all his trouble over again,

and expenses and loss of time to no purpose; for even if the cooly is again and again retaken, the planter loses him ultimately under section 105; and this goes on month after month, for the good coolies, finding how easy it is to get away from, to them, a long, disagreeable bargain, are quite ready to submit to a sentence which has no terrors for them, but soon enables them to receive a yearly bonus at some other garden. I have several coolies here who have been in jail, and they all say they got everything they wanted, in the way of tobacco, ganja, &c., by *paying well for it.*

A batch of twenty-nine coolies arrived on this garden in January 1872. Of these sixteen have absconded, six on the night they arrived; some have been retaken and sent to jail, one absconding therefrom; those retaken have again absconded; and although I know where most of them are, what gain would it be to this garden, under the present law, to keep on sending them to jail, only to lose them after all?

On the 21st June last I apprehended two of the above men, who had absconded five days previous, had sold their clothes, blankets, &c., and were tracked below Paunchgow Bustee: a clearer case was never shown, yet they were only fined Re. 1-4 each for being absent without leave, and returned to the garden; one of them paid the fine and that same day again absconded.

It is therefore quite natural that proprietors should decline to keep on losing money on importing coolies, and would gladly pay even heavier rates of pay if laborers were allowed to come into the province as other people can and do.

I believe this very serious obstacle to the further development of tea cultivation, and continual annual loss to proprietors can be fully met without a chance of any further obstacle arising about labor—

1st.—By allowing each garden to recruit their own coolies, without license or reserve, from any part of Bengal they may wish, subject of course to certain sanitary regulations to guard against epidemic, but entirely dispensing with depôts, excepting in Calcutta and at the place of disembarkation.

2nd.—To allow steamers to carry coolies as 3rd class passengers, some slight charge being made for a Doctor Baboo to accompany each steamer with coolies on board, subject to proper regulations for cleanliness and health's sake only.

3rd.—On arrival in Calcutta each cooly should be required to enter into an agreement for three years with the employer at whose expense he has been brought, and on arrival in this district each cooly and his agreement should be registered before the nearest Magistrate or Protector or Inspector of Laborers; but the cooly should be liable to some more severe and shorter punishment for non-fulfilment of his part of the contract, and under no consideration should the cooly be able to free himself from the agreement until the full term of labor was complete, always excepting such time as he may be sick, by redemption on a stated sum or on proof of cruelty towards him by employer's agent. If this was the law coolies would think twice before absconding.

4th.—That all renewals of agreement betwen cooly and employer be registered as above, the Magistrate being paid by fees; and the agreement to be binding on both parties, whether the cooly was imported

by this or any other employer, or otherwise. Every cooly offering himself to another garden shall produce his discharge from his last employer, who shall be bound, under penalty, to give it in proper form to the coolie on completion of his agreement, and no agreement ought to be binding or legal unless this discharge ticket be produced and the particulars therein endorsed on the agreement about to be registered; the production of this register, or a copy duly certified, to be taken as a full proof of the cooly's willingness to enter into such agreement without regard to consideration received.

This would entirely prevent coolies going from garden to garden, obtaining bonuses at each, and absconding directly after.

5. The employer should be able to arrest anywhere and at any time without warrant, subject of course to damages should his agents arrest a wrong man, and section 105 being cancelled.

6. To prevent the serious loss of time required to obtain convictions in petty cases, the employer or his chief agent should be empowered to levy fines for certain offences now greatly on the increase—drunkenness, common assault, abuse of native establishment, mischief, non-attendance at duty, and such like. The charge, proof, and fine to be fully entered in a book to be kept for that purpose, stating the fine, which might extend to say Rs. 5, and be open to the Inspector of Laborers, who should have the power to remit part of the fine if in his judgment the fine was too severe; the cooly desirous of appealing against any fine to do so within seven days.

At the present time if we were to send every coolie that *ought* to be punished before a Magistrate, about one-third of our coolies would be in court daily as complainants, prisoners, or witnesses; and many serious cases are now passed over on account of the unreasonable delay and loss of time of witnesses, &c., and which we cannot afford to lose.

Thus the Government, by giving the employer a reasonable prospect of obtaining from the cooly the fulfilment of his agreement, who voluntarily allowed himself to be imported at great expense, and yet fully protecting the cooly from fraud, oppression, and ill-usage, the proprietors would be prompted to extend his cultivation and generally improve his estate, and to benefit all classes throughout the district; but the continued instructions from proprietors to their managers not to undertake any extra work in the way of improvements that will require the importation of more coolies while the law remains in its present unsatisfactory state, plainly show that they are resolved not to lose any more money in that direction.

No one in reason can suppose that the gentlemen who prepared the clauses of Act II of 1870 contemplated this law should protect a cooly who had duly received a bonus and entered into a year's agreement with a planter, and if he should abscond, refuse a grant of warrant for his arrest, because the planters cannot produce an original Calcutta agreement; yet the fee is payable to Government on this cooly all the same as if he was under an original agreement. Under Act VI (B. C.) of 1865, simple registration before a Magistrate brought the cooly immediately under that Act, whether imported or not, by the registrar and old agreement papers were uncared for; now we suddenly find they are indispensable.

It is not necessary for me to add more. No doubt many other planters have some difficulty to detail, and are able to do better justice to the subject; and setting aside the difficulty of obtaining land now as compared with 1860, 1861, and 1862, the health of stations being as secondary matters, for they all must yield before a good supply of labor. I trust before long to hear that the Governor-General in Council has made some concession to planters on the above points.

Dated Balladhun, Cachar, September 1872.

From—H. W. CRAGIE, ESQ.,
To—O. G. R. MCWILLIAM, ESQ., *Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Cachar.*

IN handing you the accompanying form duly filled in for this garden and Lukhepore tea garden, I beg to make the following remarks in regard to paragraph No. 5 in the letter No. 72, from the Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in which planters are invited to make known any obstacle that may exist to the full development of their enterprise.

The only obstacle we have to complain of is in the existing rules for the sale of waste lands. Under the present rules the further extension of tea-planting is virtually put a stop to except on such lands as have already been assessed and granted by Government.

One rule that prohibits land from being taken up in fee-simple tenure that has been cultivated within the last twenty years, appears to me to have no other object than exclusion; another rule, prohibiting land from being taken up with valuable timber upon it, is liable to be much abused, unless it is distinctly stated what is to be considered as valuable timber. Most available lands on river-banks have already long ago been cleared of all really valuable timbers by wood traders and charcoal makers; and where now hill tribes are allowed to hew and cut indiscriminately for jooms, Europeans are excluded from taking up the same land (before or after them) for tea cultivation.

The only land suitable for tea cultivation which lies waste has either been cultivated within the last twenty years or has timbers on it more or less valuable.

There can be no doubt that if all the land in Cachar that is ever likely to be required for tea-planting has been taken up, there would still be an abundance of land available for hill tribes to joom on that is too steep or too far removed from water communication for tea-planting.

Allyne Garden, October 1872.

From—MESSRS. A. & R. SPICER,
To—O. G. R. MCWILLIAM, ESQ., *Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Cachar.*

ENCLOSED we beg to hand you the statement of tea cultivation in this garden as requested in yours of the 14th September. As regards the history of tea cultivation in Cachar, we will leave that to older and

more experienced planters than ourselves to write about; but there are some very great obstactles to tea-planting here that we think will be patent to all, viz.—

I.—Dearness and scarcity of labor.

II.—Shortness of term of agreement when taken into consideration with the heavy and yearly increasing cost of importing labor.

III.—Insufficiency of punishment for offences committed by coolies against the Act.

IV.—The present system of inspection of gardens.

V.—The difficulty of acquiring land under the new waste land rules.

These are, in our opinion, the principal obstacles to tea enterprise in Cachar, and some of them Government might, we beg leave to suggest, if not wholly remove, at any rate greatly mitigate.

In reference to the first obstacle mentioned, we would suggest that all restrictions at present existing on recruiting by garden sirdars should be removed, and that the Magistrates in the recruiting districts should be desired to assist, or, if that should be impracticable, at least required not to interfere to prevent sirdars bringing away coolies from their part of the province. At present we find the great difficulty is to get the sirdars' certificates countersigned by the Magistrates of the recruiting districts. This they generally refuse to do, as they do not like people leaving their districts.

As regards the second obstacle, the present price of coolies from the contractors is 60 to 65 rupees; the latter rate we paid in the early part of this year for not at all a good batch of coolies; and this, we submit, is an enormons charge for coolies having only a three years' convenant. The half of this period the coolies are only learning their work and getting acclimatized, so that they only become really valuable the last year or eighteen months of their agreement. This short time does not allow us to recoup ourselves for this very heavy outlay, and we think that we are in fairness entitled to a five years' covenant.

As regards the third obstacle, the punishment for coolies who commit offences against Act II of 1870 is either fine or rigorous imprisonment, especially the latter. The labor they are usually required to do is on the jail tea garden precisely the same class of work that they would have to do on any garden, consequently coolies do not look on this as a punishment at all; and we would suggest in future that garden coolies should be made to work on the roads under strict supervision, and, where practicable, on the roads of their own districts; or if Government would sanction the change, a slight flogging in the cutcherry, instead of sending them to jail, would have a more certain deterrent effect and greatly lessen the jail expenses.

As regards the fourth obstacle, we object to any interference by Government between ourselves and our laborers, as it lessens our authority and influence with the people we employ. If any inspection of tea gardens is necessary, it should be only of a sanitary and medical nature, as the ordinary Penal Code is quite strong enough to insure the coolies getting justice and not being ill-treated.

As regards the fifth obstacle, the bulk of the gardens in Cachar are owned or mortgaged in England, and people at home have great objections to laying out large sums of money on land that they do not themselves hold in fee-simple. The new waste land rules prevent many of the most suitable sites being taken up for tea as they have been joomed within the last few years or are near villages, so that there is now no resource but to go far away from the large rivers towards the boundaries of the Lushai or Naga countries, and run the risk of being either cut up by wild tribes or decimated by disease. This we cannot suppose was the desire of Government in framing these rules, as there is plenty of waste land still suitable for tea in situations safe from wild tribes and comparatively healthy.

Dated Doloo, 21st September 1872.

I AM desirous to say here that the great drawback to the existing tea gardens is the high price paid for recruiting coolies. The greatest facilities consistent with the proper care of coolies should be granted to planters to recruit their required amount of labor. The expense of importing coolies is very heavy, and this is owing mainly to unnecessary Government interference, which only enhances the cost but does no good whatever to the cooly. Recruiting should be freely allowed in any part of India. The whole of Act II of 1870 (and all other special Cooly Acts) should be repealed, and in its place simply a law requiring the planter to furnish Government with a list of the number of people he brought from their native houses and the number he landed in his garden ; a half-yearly register of the inhabitants on the estate ; births, deaths, desertions, left from other causes, engaged or come to the garden ; the Magistrate authorized to visit the estate whenever he thought fit, but in company with the manager, or whoever might be in charge, and by giving due notice.

2. The extension of tea-planting would be fostered by Government if it gave facilities for obtaining land—it matters not whether the land is granted in fee-simple or under rent-paying rules ; but facilities should be given (which are not now) for to give a man a reasonable hope that he may get a piece of land within four months of the date of application. The questions of valuable timber and wild tribes' rights cannot be looked upon but in the light that they are set up to bar people from obtaining land at all ; for no planter wants to disinherit where right exists, or destroy *valuable timber*, as is done by the wild tribes in "jooming." There must surely be large tracts of *waste land* in Cachar, the ownership of which the Government itself holds ; it is these lands, then, that we wish Government to lease or sell, and to give the greatest facilities in taking them up.

3. *Roads.*—I would recommend, as another means of fostering the tea interest and adding prosperity to the whole inhabitants of Cachar, the introduction of the road cess. The present state of the roads is execrable, and almost everywhere, if they are not impassable,

they are unable to bear the traffic; therefore it is more the state in which they are kept than any great extension of roads that is felt most.

W. Aitchison,
Manager of Doloo.

A serious obstacle to the spread of tea cultivation is the difficulty, under the new rules for the sale of waste lands, in obtaining a suitable piece of land, since no land upon which there is valuable timber or that may be occupied by ryots within the next twenty years, is to be sold. Without some valuable timber on a grant for charcoal making and building purposes, it cannot but be worked at great disadvantage and expense, having not only to purchase these necessaries, but to convey them from a distance. It is also impossible to say in regard to any land, whether it has valuable timber on it or not, that it will not be occupied by native tenants within the time mentioned, so that I consider the new rules have put a stop to tea-planters getting any land for the extension of the enterprise in which they are engaged. The delay in applicants obtaining possession of lands which they have applied for, acts as another hindrance to speedy development of the tea trade. Even in cases where the land is not disputed, the delay is considerable and unaccountable.

By making good and proper roads and bridges throughout the district, and by framing more liberal rules for the sale of land, Government would much encourage the work in which the tea planters are employed. The above remarks are made by the undersigned.

W. P. Williamson,
Manager of Tilkah Tea Estate, Cachar.

The following things are, I think, necessary for the welfare of tea-planting, viz.—

1st.—That all coolies should be imported for five years instead of for three years.

2nd.—That all cases of absconding or other important offence should be punished with severe flogging instead of simple imprisonment.

3rd.—That newly imported coolies should be much more strictly examined by the Civil Surgeon than they are, and those who are unfit for garden work be returned to their country, and this at the expense of the contractor who brings them up, and not at the cost of the garden.

4th.—That good roads should be made to outlying gardens in order to enable the coolies to get the benefit of a weekly bazaar. This is most important for the comfort and health of the coolies.

5th.—That Honorary Magistrates, say one planter in each district, should be appointed in order to settle any trivial case, without the expense and loss of time incurred in sending such cases to Silchar or Hylakandy courts.

If the above suggestions were carried out, it would be much for the benefit of both planter and cooly.

I think there is now every prospect of tea-planting in Cachar being a success, especially if the above remarks were carried into force. In regard to my first remark, one of the greatest expenses in opening out is importing laborers; they could be imported under a five years' agreement at the same cost as for three years, and thus be a saving of two-fifths of the cost; again, a cooly after having been three years is just getting into his manager's method of working.

In regard to my second remark, coolies as a rule do not care for imprisonment in the least, and if flogging were introduced, it would stop a great deal of absconding and other faults. In regard to the third remark, I have had coolies sent up and passed who have never done a day's work on the garden, several cases of their having been in the same helpless state for four or five years previous to their leaving their country, and once a case of a man who had been blind from his childhood, and all these imported at a cost of from Rs. 50 to Rs. 65 per head. In regard to the fourth remark, it speaks for itself; and the fifth, that if Honorary Magistrates were appointed they should be chosen by vote, subject to the approval of the Deputy Commissioner or Protector of Laborers, and that any coolie should have the right to appeal to the Protector of Laborers; but if his appeal was not upheld, he would be subjected by him to a severer punishment than that inflicted by the Honorary Magistrate.

C. A. EGLINTON,
Manager of Dilkhosh Tea Estate, Cachar.

No. 1333, dated Sylhet, the 13th January 1873.

From—H. C. SUTHERLAND, ESQ., Collector of Sylhet,
To—The Commissioner of Dacca.

WITH reference to Government letter No. 3638, dated 16th August, forwarded with your office No. 427, dated the 29th August last, I have the honor to forward herewith the statement required, and to submit the following report.

2. By far the greater portion of the land included in the tea gardens in this district is held under the old Assam rules. It seems that there are about 16,127 acres 2 roods 32 poles of land included in the several tea gardens in this district. Out of this it would seem that 10,480 acres 2 roods 32 poles of land are held under the old Assam rules; of the rest, 1,560 acres are held under the elam rules for ten years, 2,087 acres are held under pottahs from zemindars under the permanent settlement rules, and the remaining 2,000 acres are held partly under pottahs from zemindars and partly under elam rules. Some portions of these last 2,000 acres, which have not been clearly distinguished so as to enable me to show correctly how much is held zemindary and how much under the elam rules, were garden lands and deserted villages which were purchased by the present proprietors from the original owners.

3. The Assam rules were issued by Government order dated the 23rd of October 1854. According to these rules one-fourth of the grant

was to be exempted from the assessment in perpetuity, the other three-fourths were also to be rent-free for fifteen years; after the expiration of this term the aforesaid three-fourths were to be assessed at three annas per acre for ten years, and at six annas per acre for seventy-four years, the whole term being fixed for ninety-nine years. By section V*a* of those rules certain conditions with regard to the clearing of the land and bringing it under cultivation are attached to the grant. On failure of those conditions the entire grant might be resumed.

4. As regards elam tenures, I beg to state that advertisements (elam, whence the name of the estates,) were sent to the puttwarees, under orders of the Sudder Board dated 30th March 1802, to submit lists of all unassessed waste lands which were not included in the hustabood settlement of 1788, and the lists so submitted are now called the elam mouzawars.

These unassessed waste lands were then measured under the supervision of the late Revenue Surveyor, Lieutenant Thomas Fisher, as directed in the orders of the Commissioner of Assam, dated 1st December 1829. These estates were then declared to be the unassessed property of Government.

5. *Facts connected with cultivation.*—From what I can gather from the planters, it would seem that the damp climate of Sylhet, with its alternations of excessive heat, and not unoften of excessive cold, seem to be well adapted for the cultivation of tea; but the conditions of soil are not quite so favorable. The tea gardens in this district are for the most part comprised of telahs, and the tea is grown on these telah lands, which are steep and sandy, and by no means well adapted for the cultivation of tea. The heavy rains wash away the soil from the roots of the plants, and in many cases the plants themselves are washed away. The case seems to be different with the flat lands. To use the words of Mr. Jennings, a planter of some experience—"Our flats consist of a very rich, loamy soil, and would compare well with similar lands in any other part of India in which the tea-plant is cultivated." It might be asked why these steep lands should have been selected for the cultivation of tea. The answer to this has been partially given by Mr. Foley. He says that when the cultivation of tea was first introduced into this district, and especially during the tea mania, gardens were opened out indiscriminately, without regard to soil or situation. I would also add, telahs were no doubt selected as being jungle lands, and therefore supposed to be waste lands, and therefore more easily procurable by the planters.

6. Manure is not used to any very considerable extent in this district, but wherever it is used the result seems to be successful. Mr. Foley, a planter of some experience in this matter, suggests that manure ought to be mixed up with lime, as that serves to keep off white-ants from the plants.

7. The hybrid and the China species are the most common in this district; the hybrid gives the largest yield. No attempt has been made by any of the planters to improve the China species. Mr. Foley mentions an experiment he has been making with "tea cuttings," and says they make very good plants.

8. *Machinery.*—No machinery is used in any of the gardens in this district. The reason is obvious: manual labor, and I may add local labor, is very cheap, and is procurable to an almost unlimited extent. Under these circumstances machinery would not be necessary.

9. *Labor.*—With the facts before me it would be impossible to draw up a careful notice of the past history and present aspect of the labor question in this district. All that I can gather from my inquiries amounts simply to this, that for the last few years the wages of labor and the price of food generally have been steadily on the increase, owing probably to the influx of money introduced by the planters themselves, and to the comparatively easy means of communication between this place and Calcutta.

10. The vast majority of those who work in the gardens of this district are imported laborers; but the planters are in a position to command local labor to any extent, and they not unfrequently seem to do so when they require any extra work to be done in the shape of putting up a mud house, &c. The imported laborers come chiefly from Chota Nagpore, Beerbhoom, and Midnapore; whilst a few up-country men may also be found amongst their number.

11. It is not possible in this district to give the approximate number of indigenous laborers, because they vary so much. They are not, as a rule, always employed. Their employment rests upon two conditions,—the requirements of the planters and their own necessities. The planters do not always require their services, and at the time of harvest these laborers are out in the fields cutting their own crops and also the crops of others at a highly remunerative rate.

12. With the information before me I am not in a position to distinguish with anything like precision between the time-expired laborers and those still bound by their contracts, or to give the number of each class. It appears, however, that in one garden there are so many as 225 time-expired laborers, and in another 13 coolies are yet under agreement. The total number of imported laborers up to the half-year ending 30th June last is 191, bound under the original contract; and from what I can gather from the returns already submitted, it appears that there are 281 time-expired laborers, and 322 who were re-engaged under fresh contracts according to law. These are the figures given for the few gardens where imported labor is resorted to, whilst there are many who took voluntary engagements with the planters themselves, but of them no returns are received.

13. The planters here appear to be highly satisfied with the provisions of section 19 of Act II (B. C.) of 1870. It does not seem to have been acted upon to any considerable extent in this district, but where recourse has been made to it, it has given satisfaction.

The garden sirdars, having once themselves been coolies, know exactly what sort of men are required to do a cooly's work. They accordingly get men exactly fitted for the work, and very often they get their own friends and relatives, which gives them a sort of personal interest in the work. One of the planters recommends that each garden-sirdar be allowed to bring up 40 men instead of 20, the number now allowed by the law, as they can easily look after 40; but I am not

prepared to support this proposition, as I think no garden sirdar can or ought to look after more than 20 coolies.

14. The following is the scale of wages prevalent in this district, so far as I have been able to collect from returns submitted by some of the planters on this point: about Rs. 6 for men, about Rs. 5 for women, from Rs. 3 to 4 for boys. Indigenous laborers get less. In one garden it varies from Rs. 4 to 6. It may be presumed that that is the usual rate.

In only three of the reports submitted by the planters have the rates of mortality been stated. Out of these, two (Messrs. Foley and Woodroffe) have given the rates of mortality for the current and the preceding year. Mr. Turnbull gives the rate of mortality for the "present time." The rate of mortality according to these reports amount to about 2 per cent. for the current and the preceding year.

15. It may not be altogether out of place to mention here one or two facts connected with the history of tea in this district. It is now about eighteen years ago that the cultivation of tea was introduced into this district under the auspices of Mr. Sweetland, at Telaghur. Lalichera and the other plantations then rose up one after another in succession.

16. With regard to the obstacles mentioned in paragraph 5 of the letter from the Government of India, I must remark that in a permanently settled district like Sylhet it is hardly to be expected that waste lands, or what are generally called waste lands, can be found to any great extent. Such lands can only be procured through the zemindars who hold these estates, or from Government in the case of khas mehals. But I feel sure that if tea-planters would only open gardens as investments of private capital for their own profit, and not with an eye to future speculation in the shape of a company, and if they would only give up their cherished fiction of estates in fee-simple and deal directly with the zemindars, or take a Government estate under the present liberal settlement rules, they could not fail to reap a substantial profit on their investments. The result of it is, that when a planter opens a garden, the first thing he looks forward to is the possibility of getting up a company at some future time, and then selling his garden for a handsome profit. These companies are generally started in England, where of course nothing will go down that is not a fee-simple. Whatever the faults of the indigo system were in Bengal, the planters in their generation tried to secure lands from zemindars as much as possible. An indigo factory with its own putni or zemindari or izardari lands was always a profitable investment. In those days there was not so much talk about fee-simple.

17. The delay which has been caused in the submission of this report is entirely owing to the planters themselves. Some of them no doubt promptly sent in their reports and statements, but there were others whom it required a good many takeeds to rouse to action in furnishing information which the Governor-General had hoped they would cheerfully do. One indeed of these returns was not sent in till the 1st of January. Of course it was not possible to draw out the report without the necessary materials, and as great importance was attached to the report, it was absolutely necessary that I should have good and sufficient data to go upon. I must here mention Messrs. Jennings and

Foley as the two gentlemen who sent in their replies very promptly. I think it would be well if tea-planters were reminded that when grants of waste lands are made to them, they have certain obligations to discharge. There is nothing hard or unreasonable in Government calling upon tea-planters to furnish information such as that which has formed the materials of my present report; and, if necessary, I would suggest that a condition should in future be inserted in all conveyances of lands in fee-simple or otherwise, that a failure to comply with any requisition from Government for information such as has now been desired will render the grant liable to resumption.

Statement illustrative of the state

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				Area in acres.			
Province.	District.	Name of plantation.	*Approximate average elevation.	Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.
Bengal.	Sylhet.	Maloiecherra ...	76 feet.	368	43	1,510	1,921
		Cherra Gang ...	80 „	232	50	950	1,232
		Burracherra ...	80 „	80	40	935	1,055
		Tilaghur ...	70 „	250	30	560	840
		Maurapor ...	Not known	197	50	1,800	2,047
		Lalicherra ...	73 feet.	777	91	728	1,596*
		Patharia ...	......	200	36	2,943	......
		Madhabcherra ...	......	76			
		Baznicherra ...	......	......			
		Taradarang ...	......	110			
				386	36	2,943	3,365
		Chargulla ...	......	70	90	1,400	1,560
		Lukatoorah ...	300 feet.	250	90	1,060	1,400
		Gamariah ...	250 „	70	40	490	600

* *N.B.*—In the report submitted by Mr. Foley, he

of Tea Culture in India in 1872.

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS.										Average yield in lb per acre of mature plants.
Black.										
Congou.	Pekoe.	Pekoe Souchong.	Souchong.	Broken Pekoe.	Broken Tea.	Fannings.	Mixed or unassorted.	Total.	Grand Total.	
5,400	2,000	4,605	4,511	4,021	7,540	805	...	28,882	28,882	90lb.
880	11,480	19,040	...	...	...	1,600	...	33,000	33,000	103 „
200	1,310	5,280	...	...	...	680	...	7,500	7,500	93 „
2,080	14,310	11,080	...	...	...	9,740	...	37,810	37,810	160 „
4,000	24,000	...	4,000	...	...	...	...	32,000	32,000	160 „
23,348	...	30,171	...	...	11,530	18,217	25,479	1,08,640	1,08,740	140 „
......	65	17	...	...	18	...	...	100	100	230 „
......	8,000	5,100	...	8,500	...	400	...	22,000	22,000	315 „
......	13,228	5,510	10,880	...	15,006	...	...	44,654	44,654	178 „
......	2,240	4,700	...	...	2,640	...	...	9,600	9,620	137 „

states that acres 2,117-2-32 are included in his garden.

H. C. SUTHERLAND,
Offg. Collector.

No. 101, dated Chittagong, the 12th May 1873.

From—H. Hankey, Esq., Officiating Commissioner of the Chittagong Division,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.

With reference to your letter No. 3635, dated 16th August 1872, I have the honor to report on the state of tea culture in the district of Chittagong.

2. The enclosed statement gives the area and approximate yield of the several plantations in the district as required by Government.

3. First, as regards the tenure on which lands intended for tea-planting are held, I beg to report that such lands are mostly held in fee-simple, having been purchased under the Waste Land Rules. The exceptions are Mr. Fuller's "Pioneer" garden at the sudder station, which is held as a noabad talook, under the ordinary settlement rules of the district; Baboo Kantah Pershad Hazaree's garden at Rangoonia, which is included in his own zemindaree; and some 16 acres held by Mr. J. P. Langlois at Muddun's Haut, under the waste land cultivation lease rules. Mr. Windram is also in treaty with a native zemindar for a perpetual lease of 36 acres of land adjoining his garden at Muta Serra (Ramoo) for Rs. 100 per annum. Mr. Langlois states that he has purchased flat lands at Muddun Haut for planting tea, but gives no particulars beyond the area, which appears to be 15 acres.

4. *Soil.*—It appears to be the general opinion that there is a sufficiency of good tea land in the district, the best being a mixture of loam and sand. It is said that in some of the gardens the soil is too clayey, and the lay of the land too steep for good cultivation. Probably the sites for the gardens were badly chosen in the first instance. The Collector says he has himself seen a garden where plants were growing on a hill-side so steep that it would be difficult or impossible to pluck them without having something to hold on by from the ridge above, and the manager is reported to have admitted that the selection of such a site by his predecessor was simply absurd.

5. Low rich land with good drainage and facilities for irrigation seems to be considered the best possible for the growth of tea, but in a populous district like this most of such sites, at least those that are easily accessible, have been already taken up for other cultivation. Still from all accounts there is enough moderately good land available to make tea a paying speculation in gardens favorably situated.

6. *Climate.*—The planters complain generally that although sufficient rain falls during the year, its distribution is not favorable for tea. There is a want of rain in the early part of the season, and the months of March, April, and May, are particularly trying to the plants. People who have been long at Chittagong seem to think that there has been a perceptible change in the climate of late years. Formerly showers were generally expected about Christmas, and north-westers accompanied by rain in February and March; now, after the regular rains are over, there is generally no rain to speak of till April at the earliest. The very heavy rainfall during the months of July, August, and September, is also objected to by the planters.

7. Mr. Carter, of the Chandpore garden, on the Sungoo, in comparing the climate of Chittagong with that of Sylhet and Cachar, says that the season for making tea lasts about nine months in both places; that owing to want of rain, he makes little tea before June, though the season begins in March; but that what is lost in Chittagong at commencement of the season is partly made up at the close, as plucking can be continued as late as the first week in December; while in Sylhet and Cachar, owing to the cold at nights nipping the leaf buds, plucking cannot be carried on beyond the third week of November. The plant at Chittagong is, moreover, rarely injured by hail-storms, which in the other districts are of frequent occurrence. On the other hand, though the average yield during the whole year in Chittagong may be about the same as in Sylhet and Cachar, planters in those districts should be able to make tea of better quality, the early season's tea being of greater strength than that plucked and manufactured in the fall of the year.

8. Climate, in fact, seems to be the weak point of Chittagong as a tea district; and owing to so much of the land taken up for tea being situated on hills, the want of rain in the spring could not be supplied by artificial irrigation except at a very heavy outlay.

9. *Manure.*—The verdict of the planters is unanimous in favor of cattle manure, which is plentiful and cheap in the villages surrounding the gardens. It is estimated that the application of manure increases the yield by about one-third, but this calculation is merely approximate. Other manure, such as guano, bone-dust, cirencester manure, animal charcoal, and Dougall's patent tea-manure, have been tried, but not on a sufficiently large scale to judge of the comparative results. The cheapness and abundance of cattle manure will probably always ensure its being most largely used.

10. Opinions vary as to the quantity that can with advantage be applied. Mr. Campbell, of the Sungoo river plantation, thinks 12 tons per acre liberal, while Mr. Watson uses 20 tons per acre, or about 8 seers per plant. Mr. Carter considers 2 seers (4℔) per bush moderate, while 6 to 8℔ would well repay the cost, but 10 to 15℔ in moderatly good soil is in his opinion too much for plants under eight years old. The quantity required probably varies in different gardens according to the greater or less natural richness of the soil.

11. Mr. Windram of Ramoo, who, after manuring a considerable area in 1870 and 1871, was prevented doing so last year, says that the effects of the want of manure have been most apparent; the plants suffering more from heat and the flushes being neither so equal nor so heavy as in the years when he manured.

12. The class of plant in the gardens is chiefly hybrid, with some Assam indigenous and China. High class hybrid seems to be preferred and to thrive best in this district. Mr. Carter says that the China plant yields sparingly, and bears a small leaf; and though it is capable of improvement by cultivation, he considers it more profitable to fill vacancies with hybrid or indigenous plants which yield more profusely and thrive well. He admits, however, that the China plant is hardy and yields plenty of seed.

13. *Manufacture.*—No machinery is used in the gardens of this district, but in a garden on the border (just within the Hill Tracts) steam power has been successfully applied. Mr. Millie tried a hand-rolling machine, but it did not answer. Mr. Carter prefers to manufacture his tea by hand, and considers that the best tea is made in this way. He says that should he introduce machinery, it would be simply in order, by economizing labor, to set free hands from the factory and make them available for work in the garden, the extension of which renders additional labor necessary.

14. *Labor.*—Local labor is mostly employed, and is generally preferred, by the planters. Messrs. Langlois and Carter speak well of the local laborers as being a strong, sturdy set, and fair workmen, if properly managed. Mr. Carter goes so far as to say that he considers a good able-bodied local worth three imported laborers. The great advantage of indigenous over imported coolies is of course that they can be taken on and discharged as required, and are only paid for the time during which they are actually at work, while imported coolies must be housed, fed, and tended when sick, whether there is any work for them to do or not. Local laborers too have their own homes to go to, and require, as a rule, no accommodation in the garden; thus they are less expensive to the planters. Mr. Langlois further objects to imported labor on the ground that it creates ill-feeling among the locals, who consider that their employment is being usurped by outsiders.

15. From the figures furnished by the planters, it would appear that there are less than 200 imported labourers in the district, all told. There would probably be none at all were sufficient local labor available all the year round; but the high rate of wages offered in Arracan attracts yearly a large number of laborers from Chittagong, especially the south of the district, who go there to work in the fields or at the port of Akyab, returning in time to attend to their own cultivation in June. During this and the two following months they are engaged in ploughing and sowing, and thus the planters at the busiest time of the season find it difficult to get sufficient local labor. Moreover the rate of wages in Chittagong being generally high, and the villagers well off and constitutionally indolent, it is not easy to induce them to work regularly in the gardens, especially as they dislike hoeing, which is undoubtedly hard work. Owing to the above circumstances, some planters have found it necessary to import coolies, but none, except Mr. Stoddart of Dantmarra, report favorably of the imported as compared with indigenous labor.

16. This latter gentleman employs some 53 time-expired coolies originally brought from the western districts, who have remained on after expiry of their engagements. They have been nearly six years in the garden, and there have been no fresh importations. So far as information has been received, there are no other time-expired laborers in the district.

17. It does not appear that any laborers have come from a distance of their own accord to get work at the gardens. Mr. Windram of Ramoo has a party of twelve in his employ, who have been for years employed in the garden, and have now settled down at the station. He speaks of them as being the best of his laborers, as they are under no

engagement and can go or stay as they please. Their pay is Rs. 7 per mensem. The same gentleman states that he tried the plan of getting coolies from neighbouring thannahs under six months' agreement, but that they run away after working a few days, though they had received advances. He now prefers employing the villagers who live close to his garden, and whom he knows something of.

18. The imported coolies are of the class generally known as Dhangurs. They come from the western districts, and are the same as those that are selected for Assam, Sylhet, and Cachar. The approximate number of indigenous laborers cannot be given. It probably fluctuates largely, as the people are employed and paid by the day and taken on and discharged as required.

19. The system of recruiting by garden sirdars is well spoken of, but does not appear to have been tried in this district. It will be remembered that the Labor Act has not been extended to Chittagong; Mr. Carter is strongly opposed to its introduction, while Messrs. Langlois and Millie are in favor of it. The opinion of the Collector of Chittagong (Mr. Clay) is "that the Act should be introduced were it probable that importation would largely increase, but most of the planters are so strongly in favor of local labor that it seems doubtful whether this will be the case."

20. *Wages.*—The contract wages for imported coolies are generally Rs. 5 per mensem for men, and Rs. 4 for women The time-expired coolies (men, women, and girls) on the Dantmarra garden draw wages varying from Rs. 8 to Rs. 2. The local rate of wages is about Rs. 6 for tea-rollers or factory hands; Rs. 5 for ordinary coolies or hoers; and Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 for adults or children employed in plucking leaf.

21. *Mortality.*—Mr Langlois of Ghordmara reports that out of 60 imported coolies there were only two deaths. Mr. Carter reports no casualties. Mr. Windram lost three men—one by an accident, one from a disease contracted by his own indiscretion, and one from fever and diarrhœa. In the Halda valley (Mr. Macalpine's) garden, out of 47 coolies imported two years ago, seven died. In the Dantmarra garden Mr. Stoddard lost two men, one woman, and two infants, the number imported being 55; one man and the woman died from old age, and the other man from pleurisy. The infants (probably not reckoned among the 55) died of children's ailments. The general health of the laborers appears to be good on all the gardens in the district.

22. *Miscellaneous.*—It may not be out of place to mention here that from information furnished by the planters, tea bushes appear generally to begin to yield at the age of from two to three years, and are considered to be in full bearing at from six to eight. The quantity of land under plant between these two ages, and the amount of tea produced from it, is not known, no figures having been supplied by the planters, and it would be difficult or impossible to ascertain even with approximate accuracy.

23. Column 7 of the accompanying statement shows the remaining area taken up for purposes connected with tea cultivation, *i.e.* generally the remaining area of the grants after deducting that already under tea. What proportion of this is or is not suited to the cultivation of tea, is probably not at present known even to the planters themselves.

As tea-planting extends, the localities will be examined and the most promising spots taken up; but at present the greater portion is uncleared and its capabilities are not known.

24. Similarly we have no means of ascertaining the areas reserved for grazing or growing timber. It does not appear that any particular localities are kept for the production of charcoal—hard wood trees, wherever found, being selected for this purpose.

25. Green tea is not now manufactured in the district, though at one time it used to be. Of black teas, the greater part of the produce is classed as Pekoe or Pekoe Souchong, Souchong, Congou.

26. *General Remarks.*—The Collector of Chittagong makes the following general remarks in connection with the Government letter under reply :—

"The general demand of the planters is for more roads, and there is no doubt they have something to complain of in this respect. Their gardens being mostly at a distance from the main lines of communication, the roads they require are generally small feeders, and it is not easy to find money for these *quasi* private roads when our funds are so limited for even the regular district thoroughfares. We have however done what we could to assist them in this respect, and several small allotments have been lately made to planters desirous of repairing roads in the vicinity of their gardens.

"Mr. Carter complains of the insufficiency of the law for punishing breaches of contract. Seven of his imported coolies, on arrival at Chittagong, declined to proceed to the garden, and were punished for breach of contract under section 492, Penal Code.* The point was referred to the Advocate-General, whether on expiry of sentence the coolies could be made over to the planters. The reply was that the Emigration Act not being in force, they could not; in other words that the sentence of imprisonment (maximum one month) cancelled the contract. This is of course hard upon the planter, who may have had to pay Rs. 60 or 70 for each cooly, and in no way benefits by their imprisonment, while his expenses are not likely to be realized by the imposition of a fine; but the Labor Act not having been extended to this district, the Advocate-General's opinion was probably correct according to law.

* The conviction was quashed on appeal to the Judge on a technical point of law.
A. L. C.

"Mr. Windram complains more generally of the want of a contract law to bind the local laborers, and this, I think, is a real and substantial grievance. It is well known that the civil courts can afford no real redress against people who, if a decree is obtained and execution taken out, appear to possess no movable property but a hubble-bubble and a brass lotah. The provisions of the Penal Code do not apply to local laborers, and if they did they are not severe enough, and while inflicting a light penalty upon the delinquent, afford the employer no real redress at all. What the planter wants is that the laborer, who has of his own free will contracted to work, shall be compelled by law to fulfil his agreement, unless there are good and sufficient reasons for his exemption; at least he may fairly claim to be compensated for the trouble and expense he has has been put to by the default of the contractor.

"Both Messrs. Langlois and Carter are of opinion that no sufficient check is maintained over the proceedings of cooly contractors and recruiters, and that many coolies are still sent off to plantations with very incorrect notions of what is before them, and often even of their destination. This is a matter that does not directly relate to this district, but I mention it as connected with the general question of tea cultivation.

"With reference to paragraph 4 of the Government of India's letter (No. 74, dated 17th June last), Mr. Fuller has furnished me with the following information regarding the introduction of tea into Chittagong. In 1840, Mr. Sconce, who was the Collector, received some tea seed from Assam and three China plants from the Botanical Gardens; these were put down in the garden known as the "Pioneer," in the sudder station, now belonging to Mr. Fuller. In 1843 tea was first manufactured in Chittagong. In November 1862, Dr. J. B. Barry, who was greatly interested in tea, visited Chittagong, and being satisfied with what he saw and the information he received, commissioned Mr. Fuller to take up 20,000 acres of land on his account. After this other speculators came forward, applications for allotments of waste lands poured into the Collectorate, and a number of gardens were opened out.

"Some of the companies owning gardens collapsed with the Agra Bank; other gardens suffered from the ignorance or neglect of the managers in charge, and had to be abandoned; while in the case of others again the sites had been chosen so badly at first that they never could be expected to pay. The Chittagong tea mania ran its course between 1863 and 1867, and the gardens that now remain had either weathered the storm or changed hands during the crisis, the present owners having benefited by the mistakes of their predecessors and purchased the property in some cases at a very low figure.

"The future prospects of tea cultivation appear on the whole favorable, but it is perhaps doubtful whether Chittagong will ever become a really large tea-producing district."

27. Mr. Langlois, the Manager of the Muddun Hât Tea Company, Limited, is of opinion that Chittagong is not altogether a favorable district for tea, and even goes so far as to state that he doubts whether with one exception any garden in Chittagong is paying. I attach no value whatever to this opinion. The prospects of Chittagong as a tea-growing district, if not brilliant, are very steady and fair. The customs returns show a considerable increase in the quantity of tea annually exported. The majority of gardens are gradually developing into valuable properties, and even natives are planting here and there on a small scale.

28. I agree with the Collector in thinking that the introduction of a labor law is very desirable. The extension of Act XIII of 1859 to this district by notice in the Gazette would meet the want that is felt so far as local labor is concerned.

29. The employment of imported labor in the district is very limited, and, so far as I have had opportunities of judging, I do not think that any legislation is required to ensure the protection and well-being of the imported cooly. I have seen a number of them in the largest garden here (Fennoah), and they all appeared properly cared

for. Some control however might, I consider, be fairly placed over their enlistment and the operations of the recruiter, for, as Mr. Langlois' remarks, I have no doubt a great deal of deception is practised at the time of engagement.

30. The demand for roads is a general one, and not made without cause. The question how far the State is bound to make roads in the sole interest of the tea-planter, or in any other special interest, is one that requires consideration. The want of roads is universal, and each class of the community is entitled to its fair share and no more.

31. Good communications are almost as essential to the success of a tea garden as anything else, and when these do not already exist, their construction ought to be taken into calculation as part of the necessary outlay. *Primâ facie* there are no reasons why the State should take the expense of carriage off the planter's hands than the expense of manufacture.

32. At the same time there is no doubt that it is a wise policy to hold out a helping hand and encourage European enterprise and the employment of capital. I would therefore advocate a system of contribution, and help those only who endeavoured to help themselves. Whenever a planter volunteered to pay half the expenses of a road for the improvement of communication, I would, whenever possible, supply the other half from public funds. Some such system obtains, I believe, to a considerable extent in Tirhoot, and is presumably the cause why that district has such a good reputation for its roads.

STATEMENT ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE STATE OF TEA CULTURE IN THE DISTRICT OF CHITTAGONG IN 1872.

Statement illustrative of the state of Tea Cultu

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				AREA IN ACRES.			
PROVINCE.	DISTRICT.	Name of plantation.	Approximate average elevation.	Mature plants.	Immature plants.	Taken up for planting, but not yet planted.	Total.
			Feet.				
BENGAL ...	CHITTAGONG ...	Modun Hât Tea Company's Estates	200	200	15	2,864	3,07
		Ghatchik	45	2	4	...	
		Chandpoor	50	74	27	2,593	2,69
		Pahartali	50	4	4	225	23
		Mitacherra	40 to 50	90	5	2,839	2,93
		Panicherra	40 to 50	50	...	375	42
		Dantmara	600	80	...	422	50
		Fatikchari Tea Estates ...	800	150	...	4,060	4,21
		Sungoo River	190	61	9	3,101	3,17
		Patea Tea Estates	100	230	50	5,649	5,92
		Ranganea	100	75	50	340	46
		Pioneer	...	10	3	......	1
		Jeitpura...	...	8	2	1,219	1,22

in the District of Chittagong in 1872.

9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
APPROXIMATE YIELD IN 1872 IN lb AVOIRDUPOIS.						Average yield in lb per acre of mature plant.	REMARKS.
Black.							
Congou.	Pekoe.	Pekoe Souchong.	Fannings.	Total.	Grand Total.		
7,600	8,000	12,000	4,000	31,600	31,600	158	
...	...	......	......	352*	352	176	* No particulars; may probably be classed as Pekoe.
900	24,480	Broken Pekoe. 600	Pekoe dust. 1,220	27,200	27,200	367	
240	80	Pekoe Souchong. 160	......	480	480	120	
1,200	6,000	6,000	Fannings and Broken Tea. 2,800	16,000	16,000	114	
...	...	......	......	20,000†	20,000	250	† All packed as Pekoe, except the refuse, which is classed as broken tea.
...	...	......	......	29,924‡	29,924	199	‡ Classed as Pekoe, Souchong, Congou, and Fannings. Particulars of each sort not given.
...	...	......	......	...	25,620§	420	§ The total yield has been calculated by multiplying acreage under mature plant by the average production per acre. Figures were not given by the planter. 70 per cent. is classed as Pekoe.
1,706	Broken Pekoe. 2,416	25,050	Broken mixed. 3,478	32,650	32,650	142	
614	1,014	11,109	949	13,686	13,686	182½	
2,000	Pekoe. 4,400	......	......	6,400	6,400	610	
400	800	......	......	1,200	1,200	150	

A. L. CLAY,
Officiating Collector.